



CHAOTIC SWORD GOD

BOOK 02

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Chaotic Sword God

(混沌剑神)

by

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Synopsis

Jian Chen, the publicly recognized number one expert of the Jianghu. His skill with the sword went beyond perfection and was undefeatable in battle, After a battle with the exceptional expert Dugu Qiubai who had gone missing over a hundred years ago, Jian Chen succumbed to his injuries and died.

After death, Jian Chen's spirit was transmigrated into a completely foreign world. Following an extremely fast growth, his enemies piled up one after another before becoming gravely injured once more. On the gates of death, his spirit had mutated, and from that moment henceforth, he would tread on a completely different path of the art of the sword to become the sword god of his generation.

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Chapter 101: Ten Thousand Immunity (Two)

“Putong!”

Jian Chen stripped off all of his clothes, and jumped straight into the blood-filled cask. At the same time, he retrieved the snake gall from within the jade bottle, and directly swallowed it.

Not long after the gall entered his stomach, Jian Chen immediately felt a surge of activity from his five senses within his body. His stomach began to grumble loudly against his will, as if he was currently having diarrhea.

Jian Chen sat cross-legged within the cask. The blood in the cask submerged everything up to his neck, leaving only his head exposed outside.

Feeling the ice-cold air emitted from the blood, Jian Chen gradually relaxed. He closed his eyes, and began to absorb the unique genes from within the blood, following the procedure he had read in books.

It was because of the existence of these unique elements within the Silver Striped Golden Snake's blood that gave the blood its ability to detoxify poison. According to the books, one must absorb all of these unique elements within the body, and then fuse them into their own blood in order to gain an unpoisonable body. The blood would support the body, and grant one's flesh an overpowering ability to resist poisons; the ability was so powerful that one could even become completely immune to poisons.

Once the Silver Striped Golden Snake's blood was used to refine the Ten Thousand Immunity, one would be entirely immune to any poisons weaker than the Silver Striped Golden Snake's. One would even gain the effect of being able to strongly resist poisons at the same level as the Silver Striped Golden Snake's (although one cannot be immune to it). Thus, the amount of danger the poison would be able to inflict would be drastically decreased, or the spread of the poison would be greatly deterred.

Although the Ten Thousand Immunity wasn't immune to all the poisons that existed, it was enough to make Jian Chen excited. After all, the Silver Striped Golden Snake's poison had widespread fame on the Tian Yuan Continent. There were just a handful of poisons more potent than the Silver Striped Golden Snake's. Moreover, such poisons were extremely uncommon, and were as rare to see as the Silver Striped Golden Snake itself.

Jian Chen sat cross-legged in the cask with his eyes tightly shut. His stomach continued to loudly grumble extremely loudly. If anyone was standing next to Jian Chen, they would be able to clearly hear the sound.

Within Jian Chen's stomach was something similar to a roaring sea; it was very stormy. At the same time, an extremely nauseating feeling arose from Jian Chen's heart, and Jian Chen could barely stop himself from vomiting.

"I guess the snake's gall bladder is being dissolved; the bile inside is leaking out." Jian Chen resisted the nausea with great difficulty. He inwardly recalled that the books had stated if one wanted to

refine the Ten Thousand Immunity, aside from blood, the most important part was the gall bladder. Both the gall bladder and the blood were essential components, because the blood's poison-resistant special elements could only be absorbed into one's body by being drawn in by the gall bladder.

These poison-resistant elements weren't like World Essence that could be absorbed whenever one wanted to. If one didn't have the appropriate object to draw them in, then even if one had the blood, they wouldn't be able to absorb the elements. Although directly drinking the fresh blood could also detoxify the poison, this could only temporarily address the issue. Not long after, a simple trip to the toilet would drain the consumed blood; there was no way one could even think the way to obtaining an unpoisonable body would be like that.

At that moment, a warm current suddenly appeared in Jian Chen's abdomen. The warmth continued to increase, and in that instant, Jian Chen felt like his abdomen was burning, as if a fire was blazing within it. Along with this abrupt uprising of changes within his abdomen, Jian Chen's pores all opened, as if linked together.

At the same time, inside of the cask, traces of that bizarre and special energy began to materialize like small fish within the crimson blood. They all began to gradually swim toward Jian Chen and enter his body through his pores.

Just as this energy was entering his body, Jian Chen's originally serene expression suddenly changed. The bizarre energy entering him instantly changed from being docile like a small sheep into a

ferocious group of tigers. They wildly revolted within Jian Chen's body, making his entire body suffer from intense pain.

“This is bad, there are unexpectedly some magical beast's unique berserk elements within this blood. Moreover, it's even stronger than those within a monster core.” Sensing his body's changes, Jian Chen instantly understood what was happening. All magical beast's energies contained berserk elements; this was something that everyone in Tian Yuan Continent has known for ages. However, these berserk elements were almost all hidden within monster cores, so Jian Chen hadn't expected that they would also exist in the Silver Striped Golden Snake's blood. Moreover, these berserk elements were much more powerful than the ones that he had absorbed from monster cores during cultivation, perhaps even a hundredfold stronger.

Resisting the powerful pain arising from his body with much difficulty, an extremely baffled thought popped up in Jian Chen's mind. “How come I hadn't felt these berserk elements at all when I first drank the Silver Striped Golden Snake's blood?”

Jian Chen sat in the cask, his body beginning to shake as his entire body down to even his pores were in intense pain, and the muscles on Jian Chen's couldn't help but twitch. His originally flush face had gradually begun to turn pale.

The traces of the bizarre and special energy within the snake's blood seemed to be attracted by something, and continuously rushed into Jian Chen's pores. As the amount of energy in his body continued to increase, the berserk elements contained within also increased, and became more and more powerful. The pain brought

forth onto his body by these berserk elements made Jian Chen sweat profusely. However, he clenched his teeth and fists tightly, and continued to resist it.

At that moment, the azure and violet glows in Jian Chen's dantian suddenly emitted faint light rays. Meanwhile, the fierce pain Jian Chen was feeling suddenly disappeared without a trace. The berserk elements absorbed by him that had accompanied the bizarre energy within the blood seemed to have been attracted by some strange force. As soon as they entered Jian Chen's body, they immediately began to fly towards the azure and violet glows in his dantian.

For a while, Jian Chen was a bit at loss at the sudden changes. However, he soon realized what had happened, and immediately sighed in relief. He knew that every time he absorbed energy from monster cores, the berserk elements contained would also be ingested by the azure and violet glows in his dantian. Therefore, there was nothing strange about what had just happened.

Without the torment of the berserk elements, Jian Chen's previously pained expression immediately loosened. However, he still didn't relax from this, and immediately surveyed the current situation his inner body was in.

The only thing he could sense was the special elements. The berserk elements within the snake's blood had been completely absorbed by the azure and violet glows in his dantian upon entering his body. There were only some harmless special elements remaining, and they were gradually gathering in the direction of where the snake's gall bladder was. Eventually, they

completely surrounded the gall bladder.

The absorption of these special elements was extremely slow. Jian Chen stayed in the cask for an entire day and night before he was finally able to finish absorbing all of the special elements in the blood. Currently, the snake's gall bladder in Jian Chen's stomach had already gathered all of the special elements, and formed a thick layer.

After a day and night of absorbing all of the elements within the blood, the blood in the cask not only lost all of its color and luster, even the intolerable smell of it had disappeared without a trace.

Right now, there was only one step remaining until Jian Chen could refine the Ten Thousand Immunity. This step was also the most important one; whether or not he would be successful completely depended on this step.

Chapter 102: Ten Thousand Immunity

(Three)

Right now, there was only one step remaining until Jian Chen could refine the Ten Thousand Immunity. This step was also the most important one; whether or not he would be successful completely depended on this step.

By this point all of the most important parts of the Silver Striped Golden Snake's blood had been cleanly gathered by Jian Chen and concentrated in the gallbladder to form a strange substance. The strange substance was the anti-venom and the blood of the Silver Striped Golden Snake combined together.

In accordance to the contents of the books, Jian Chen needed to absorb the anti-venom and blood substance into his own body. And once he had completely assimilated it into his body, only then would he successfully gain the Ten Thousand Immunity.

As long as the substance was absorbed into the body, then Jian Chen's blood would take on a detoxifying property. Not only that, but the body would undergo changes as the blood circulated around the body. After some time, the body would become resistant to poison and grow an immunity to weaker poisons without fear of harm.

With a heavy expression, Jian Chen stood up. This was the final step as well as the most crucial one because the anti-venom substance would only gather within his body if the gall bladder of the snake was present. If there was no gall bladder, then the substance would dissipate uselessly. Before he could digest the

snake's gall bladder, he would need to assimilate the anti venom within his blood stream.

Jian Chen calmed himself down and began to control the substance around his body. However, as the substance left the gall bladder, a strange attraction started to happen and began to pull at the substance Jian Chen was trying to control.

Jian Chen bit his lips as he increased the amount of focus he was putting in his control. Although Jian Chen's strength was still quite weak, his spirit was unquestionably strong. Under his increased control, the strange substance had finally left the gall bladder and assimilated into his bloodstream.

However, just as he was assimilating the bloodstream, the strange substance completely separated from the blood, like two opposite poles of a magnet. The two seemed incompatible with each other, and there was no way they could possibly fuse. However, Jian Chen still wasn't discouraged. He once again focused his strength on controlling the strange substance to forcefully merge with the bloodstream. He then watched it from the side; if the strange substance showed the slightest indication of separating again, he would immediately pour all his focus onto it and force it back into the bloodstream.

As the blood flowed throughout his veins, the substance which Jian Chen had forcefully absorbed into his blood was finally completely assimilated. Surprisingly a part of the substance had a green tint to its color, but in the end that had also been absorbed into the blood and disappeared.

As the energy from the substance was absorbed into his bloodstream, Jian Chen felt that his blood had somehow gotten weaker, as if something else had happened.

After a portion of the energy from the substance was assimilated, Jian Chen didn't know how much time had passed, but the gall bladder he had digested had shrunk a bit.

Jian Chen knew that the gall bladder wouldn't be able to survive in his body for long. So without a moment of hesitation, Jian Chen had forcefully broken a part of the substance away and began to try to assimilate it into his bloodstream one more time.

Time after time, Jian Chen had tried again for an unknown amount of time. But in the end, the very last of the substance had successfully been assimilated into his bloodstream as the gall bladder was on the brink of disappearing.

Feeling the noticeable change in his bloodstream, Jian Chen let out a sigh of relief. His heart grew excited as a bright smile took over his face.

“The Ten Thousand Immunity, I never thought I would gain the unpoisonable body!” Jian Chen said inwardly. From his past 20 years of experience, he knew that this new world he was in was even more dangerous, so the Ten Thousand Immunity would bring him a great amount of benefits. At the very least if he was to be captured by his enemies, he wouldn't have to worry about poisoned food.

However, while Jian Chen had successfully refined the Ten Thousand Immunity, it was still in its primary stage and not its perfect stage. While his blood had fused with the anti-venom from the blood of the Silver Striped Golden Snake, this fusion was not yet complete and would need some time before it would reach perfection.

Once his blood and the anti-venom had perfectly fused together, it would then circulate around his body endlessly and transform the bones, flesh and organs within his body. Every part of his body would gain the anti-venom capability. This would be the true extent of the Ten Thousand Immunity.

Slowly, Jian Chen opened his eyes to the first rays of light. In the horizons, the fiery sun was just peeking out, meaning that it was only the start of the morning.

Jian Chen leapt out from the blood filled cask and took out a towel from his Space Belt to clean off the blood on him before wearing a new set of clothes.

After all that time Jian Chen had spent in the cask, the blood within had already been reduced by a quarter. Even the previously bloody smell had dissipated and the color of the blood had started to darken a bit.

Looking at the cask besides him, Jian Chen kicked at the container firmly. The cask overturned and broke on the hard ground, spilling the blood onto the ground.

While the blood of the Silver Striped Golden Snake was incomparably precious, the most important part of the blood had already been absorbed by him. The remaining parts of the blood could only be said to be equal to water and did not have a single use for it anymore.

After returning to Wake City once more, Jian Chen entered a restaurant and ordered a few dishes to eat his fill. After a day and night of not eating, Jian Chen's stomach was a bit hungry.

Right now was the busiest time for the restaurant, the environment inside was already very lively. The people coming and going was like an endless stream and filled up the tables in a flash. Even the waitresses of the restaurant were constantly scampering around busily taking orders and delivering dishes.

“Little brother, the seats here are all occupied already. Could I possibly sit here with you?”

Chapter 103: Flame Mercenaries

“Little brother, the seats here are all occupied already. Could I possibly sit here with you?”

At that moment, a deep sounding voice came from behind Jian Chen. Turning his head to look at the source, Jian Chen saw a middle aged man with a big smile on his face. He stood across on the opposite side of Jian Chen and stared at him with a good natured look.

The middle aged man looked to be around 40 years old and wore a cyan colored robe. However, to Jian Chen’s sharp eyes, this robe was made of coarse material and so was categorized as a cheap cloth. With his short black hair, there was nothing about him that stood out—even his good natured smile wasn’t a fake one.

Jian Chen nodded his head with a smile, “Since the restaurant has suddenly filled up, I can’t possibly use up all this room by myself, come and sit with me!”

“Then, many thanks little brother.” The other man laughed as he cupped his hands together. Then he pulled out the stool and sat down on it.

“Miss, a cup of wine and a pound of your finest horse meat!” The man called out.

“Okay, please wait a moment honored customer!” The waitress called back.

Jian Chen stared at the middle aged man in front of him for a while before finally tearing his eyes off of him and looking back at his own meal.

The middle aged man looked at Jian Chen and chuckled, “And what should I call this younger brother?”

“Jian Chen!” He responded with a mouthful of meat, so the words did not come out as audibly.

“Jian Chen, heh, what a pleasant name.” The middle aged man sized up Jian Chen with his eyes and then opened his mouth to ask, “Brother Jian Chen, I’m assuming you are a mercenary as well.”

He nodded his head, “Correct, but because my strength is quite low, I am only one of the lowest of D ranked mercenaries.”

A mercenary’s rank corresponded with their strength and their merits from missions done. The lowest of the D ranked mercenaries were generally newbie Saints, however, there were a few cultivators that did not yet condense their Saint Weapons amongst the D ranked mercenaries. Even though the middle aged man looked to be quite well natured, Jian Chen didn’t dare to reveal his precise strength to him.

The man laughed with no ill intentions, “Little brother, you can’t be any older than 20 years old. Once you’ve successfully condensed your Saint Force into a Saint Weapon, then your potential will be unlimited.” The man’s words were sincere, but after he spoke, he

gave a long sigh. “Thinking back, I was 25 years old when I first condensed my Saint Weapon and broke through to become a Saint. To think little brother here is only 20 years old and is a Saint. I don’t think it’ll be too far off until there will be another gifted Earth Saint Master in the future.” When the three words ‘Earth Saint Master’ were said, the man’s face had looked almost expectant.

Hearing that, Jian Chen couldn’t help but look at the middle aged man once more. While he had a better impression of this man, it was still nothing more than just that.

Condensing a Saint Weapon at the age of 25 could be said to be quite mediocre within the Tian Yuan Continent. This type of person would be limited to being a Great Saint Master at the best, and without coming across an opportunity, they would never be able to break through to become an Earth Saint Master.

After all, in the space between a Great Saint Master and an Earth Saint Master was an unbelievably difficult threshold. This threshold is so difficult that condensing a Saint Weapon was easier by a hundred thousand times. This is because from the breakthrough to an Earth Saint Master from a Great Saint Master, if one was not careful, they would fall in a land without redemption. In a less severe case, they would suffer a serious injury and lose their entire cultivation, thus becoming a cripple. In the worst case scenario, they would forfeit their lives to the [Yellow Springs](#).

The Chinese version of hell, equivalent to Yomi of Japanese mythology.

The threshold separating the Earth Saint Master from the Great Saint Master was one dividing life from death. There were many people with mediocre talent that reached the Great Saint Master but were unable to break through to become an Earth Saint Master, many more had even died trying to make the breakthrough.

The success rate of breaking through to become an Earth Saint Master was only one percent.

Regarding this bit of information, Jian Chen had known about it. Whether or not it was in the Kargath Library or the Changyang Mansion Library, Jian Chen had read about it.

“Little brother, I am guessing you haven’t joined a mercenary group yet.” The middle aged man asked Jian Chen with a small smile.

Hearing this, Jian Chen’s heart jumped as he realized what the man was about to say, but he nodded his head in response, “That is correct!”

“Little brother, why don’t you join my Flame Mercenaries? Although the amount of people within our group isn’t large, the mercenaries in here are quite good natured.” He said eagerly.

Jian Chen became silent as he listened to the man. He had never thought about joining a mercenary group before, since in his mind, joining a mercenary group was only a burden that would limit his free roaming spirit. It would also bring his cultivation rate to a

standstill since the only way he could cultivate rapidly was to use monster cores. Monster cores were absolutely necessary, and so the amount needed was also enormous. If he were to go into the Magical Beast Mountain Range by himself, the profits he earned would naturally be his and keep up with his consumption rate.

However if he were to join the mercenary group, it would be easier to kill magical beasts at the cost of splitting up the amount of monster cores with the entire group, which would be a problem. If Jian Chen were to join a mercenary group, he needed to go solo. Otherwise, the monster core distribution would be given to other people as well.

Seeing Jian Chen's silence, the middle aged man didn't give up. "Brother Jian Chen, my Flame Mercenaries is only a small sized group that doesn't restrict the actions of anyone like they do in the larger groups. With so many different types of rules and restrictions that makes one's head want to explode, our group is not like that. Joining my mercenary group is merely helping the group have an easier way to earn money. You must know that the Magical Beast Mountain Range is a profitable way of earning money and that monster cores sell for a high price while helping us cultivate our Saint Force which is extremely essential. Even the parts of a magical beast can be sold for a high price to any of the restaurants.

"As our numbers increase, then so does our strength. Even if we come across a high leveled magical beast, we would be able to kill it. Just think! If we are able to kill a high leveled magical beast, imagine how large our profits would be, even your heart would consider this I bet." The man stopped momentarily to breath before continuing, "If you are by yourself, even if you can deal

with a few low leveled magical beasts, then it would not sell for much money I'm sure. Even if you spend so much energy killing it, the amount of money earned would not even cover your healing costs. And if you come across an ambush from a few high leveled magical beasts—how long do you think a single person could run away from a dozen high leveled magical beasts? This is definitely impossible, and in the end, that person would only be throwing his life away.”

Seeing how Jian Chen was still silent, the man gave it another try, “Brother Jian Chen, if it's concerning the matter of distribution of benefits, you don't have to worry. While our Flame Mercenaries was recently established a few years ago, the brothers within the group are made of steel who care for the bonds of friendship over the metal of money. In the case that our group has a profit, then no matter if you worked hard or not, the group will not treat you unfairly.”

Chapter 104: Joining A Mercenary Group

Seeing how Jian Chen was still silent, the man gave it another try, “Brother Jian Chen, if it’s concerning the matter of distribution of benefits, you don’t have to worry. While our Flame Mercenaries was recently established a few years ago, the brothers within the group are made of steel who care for the bonds of friendship over the metal of money. In the case that our group has a profit, then no matter if you worked hard or not, the group will not treat you unfairly.”

With that said, the middle aged man had stopped talking, he had said all that needed to be. The only thing left was to see what choice Jian Chen would make.

Jian Chen’s eyebrows furrowed in thought as he considered the benefits within his head. Finally biting his lip, his eyes shone with a firm decision, “Alright then, I’ll join your group. However, I have some conditions: I will not have any type of restriction put onto me, neither will I have to obey anyone. Also, if I want to leave the group in the future, the group will not try to stop me in any way.

The middle aged man looked at Jian Chen with doubt, “Brother Jian Chen, could it be you’re not going to even ask about how strong the Flame Mercenaries are or if there are any strong enemies? You have to realize, if our Flame Mercenaries have a strong enemy and you join, then it will definitely bring you trouble as well and may very well be a concern to your life.”

Jian Chen laughed gently as he said, “If things like this were too frightening, then why did I bother to leave my home to explore the

world. If I have decided to join your mercenary group, then a factor like this was not even in my range of thinking.”

The middle aged man began to laugh without restraint, “Good, good, good! Brother Jian Chen, I really can’t take your age seriously, you’re quite the brave person. The conditions you asked for won’t be of any problem since our group is a small one whose only goal is to earn money. The mercenaries in our group won’t try to restrict you either, if you want to leave the group, you’re free to do so at any time.”

“This couldn’t be any better!” Jian Chen nodded his head.

The middle aged man nodded as well, “Ah, we’ve talked for quite some time and I didn’t even introduce myself yet. My name is Kendall, captain of the Flame Mercenaries. Brother Jian Chen, if you don’t mind, then call me Uncle Kendall. Whatever titles people give to the captains, I care not for it.” Kendall laughed.

“Alright, then in the future I’ll call you Uncle Kendall.” In Jian Chen’s eyes, Kendall was someone he had a good impression of, and seemed to be quite honest and dependable now.

Soon after, Kendall and Jian Chen both finished their food and left the restaurant together to go to the Mercenary Union to take care of the formality procedure.

Joining a mercenary group was relatively simple. So in a flash, Jian Chen had taken care of the entire procedure and became an official member of the Flame Mercenaries.

“Jian Chen, let’s go. I’ll take you to the temporary meeting spot and introduce you to the other members.” Kendall began to walk on the road as they both left the Mercenary Union.

On the way, Kendall began to explain a few things about the Flame Mercenaries, allowing Jian Chen to gain a better understanding.

The Flame Mercenaries were established 5 years ago as a small mercenary group. Soon after they were established, the members had spent the majority of their time in the Magical Beast Forest killing magical beasts for money. Very rarely did they accomplish any missions, so for that reason, they remained to be a D ranked group without having a single chance to prove their strength.

Including Kendall, there were 9 other members within the group, so including Jian Chen, the Flame Mercenaries now had 10 members in total.

According to Kendall, in those 8 members, aside from himself being at the Primary Saint Master stage, 5 members were at the Great Saint stage while the remaining 3 were only at the Saint level.

After he said that, Kendall slapped his forehead as he turned to Jian Chen with a smile, “Ah that’s right, brother Jian Chen, I still don’t know what type of strength you possess right now.” Although Kendall’s heart could only guess that Jian Chen was only at the Saint level due to his young age, but this was only a guess.

Until he got a straight answer from Jian Chen, he didn't dare to make a rash conclusion.

With a small chuckle, Jian Chen took out the badge representing him as a mercenary from his Space Belt. This mercenary badge was given to Jian Chen when he first became one, proving that he was a D ranked mercenary.

Seeing the badge, Kendall's face didn't change at all. "Then our Flame Mercenaries have just added another Saint to our ranks. With this increase in strength, hunting magical beasts will be that much easier."

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Jian Chen walked with Kendall for about the time it took for an oil lamp to burn out before finally arriving at an ordinary looking house with broken cobblestone steps leading to it. The house was not very big, and the eaves of the house had plenty of cobwebs hanging about it. Even the walls had many scars from the passage of time and nature. It was clear to see that this house had been in existence in Wake City for many years, but no one had taken care of it.

Kendall walked up to the door of the house and lightly knocked on it. Not too long after, the wooden door opened slightly to reveal the dark skinned head of a person. Judging from his skinny face, the youth looked to be around 26 years old and looked like the type of person to be a snatcher if put within a group of people.

Upon seeing Kendall, the youth's face revealed a smile as he said, "Ah, Uncle Kendall, I just knew it was you."

Soon after, Jian Chen followed Kendall into the room. While the light within the house was dusky, it did not affect Jian Chen's vision at all. As Jian Chen looked around the house, he began to take in the sight in its entirety.

The house from the inside wasn't too big, and the layout wasn't complicated at all. Aside from a few plank beds, there was a single long table along with a few stools. In fact, the room's layout could even be said to be quite crude. On top of the plank beds were a few bored people lazing about with a bottle of wine in their hands. However, when Captain Kendall entered the room, everyone immediately stared at him and started to gather around him.

"Gather around everyone, let me introduce you all to brother Jian Chen. He has just recently joined our Flame mercenaries, and is the youngest out of all the people in our group. Starting today, I hope everyone can take care of him." As soon as he entered the room, Kendall had pulled Jian Chen along to introduce him.

At this, Jian Chen knew he had to say something. Standing with his feet together and cupping his hands in a salute towards everyone, he smiled. "I am a newcomer here, I hope that everyone will help keep an eye on me!"

Chapter 105: Team Operation

Everyone in the room turned their gazes away from Kendall to Jian Chen, but the moment they saw his young face, everyone was astonished.

However Jian Chen's words had a flattering effect on them. He needed to make a good impression since first impressions were very important when meeting new people.

“Brother Jian Chen, your name is Jian Chen right? Come and sit down quickly. No matter how young you are, the moment you join our group, you are our brother to enjoy blessings and endure misfortune together with. In the future, if you find someone that is bullying you, come and find me.” A tall but sturdy person spoke as he got up from the bed. Crossing over to Jian Chen, he placed his right hand on his shoulder and then pushing him towards the table to sit at.

Jian Chen smiled, “This one doesn't know how to call his older brother.” Looking at the man, Jian Chen thought him to be quite sturdy with his muscles protruding out noticeably. From his stature and physique, the man looked to be in his thirties, and even in the dark room, Jian Chen could tell that this man was relatively dark skinned to the point of resembling a black person. His entire body was filled with scars and old injuries that seemed to have originated from magical beasts. Just one look at him and Jian Chen could tell that the man was quite experienced with dealing with magical beasts.

“I'm called Hu Po. Brother Jian Chen, if you don't mind, feel free

to call me big brother Hu Po in the future. Since I'm older than you, it's not going to be all that bad anyways." He sat by Jian Chen's side and poured him a glass of water with a big smile.

"Alright then, in the future I'll call you Brother Hu Po." Jian Chen laughed.

At that point, the people who were previously drinking in the middle of the room stood up as well.

"Brother Jian Chen, let me introduce you to everyone." Kendall pointed his fingers at a few of the people around them.

Excluding Jian Chen and Kendall, there was another 6 male mercenaries. Their age ranged around 30 to 40 years old, and there were even two twins in the small group named Zhou Da Kai and Zhou Xiao Kai who were both 28 years old. The both of them had the power of a Great Saint and had the same exact facial features. If it were not for the fact one of them had a scar over their forehead, then it would have been extremely difficult to tell which one of the twins was the older twin and which was the younger twin.

The other 4 people were 32 years old, and aside from the Primary Great Saint Hu Po, the other 3 people were called Yun Xuan, Xiao Dao, and Chang Ning Feng.

Yun Xuan was relatively tall with a wisely face that made him look like a scholar. At the age of 25, he possessed the strength of a Middle Saint.

Xiao Dao on the other hand was tiny, and with his skinny body, he almost looked like a skeleton. In comparison to Yun Xuan, Xiao Dao was seemingly weaker than him. Aside from Jian Chen, Xiao Dao was the youngest of the bunch at the age of 22 years old who also had the strength of a Middle Saint.

Chang Ning Feng was a middle aged man with a calm composure. At the age of 30, Ning Feng was 2 years older than Hu Po and was a Middle Great Saint.

“Jian Chen, this is our Flame Mercenaries group. Aside from the people here, there are another two people at the market buying items, but I’m sure they’ll be back soon.” Kendall said. “Tomorrow will be another operation for the Flame Mercenaries where everyone will be participating in. Brother Jian Chen, are you willing to join us? There aren’t many rules, but if you don’t want to join, then no one will try to force you, this is a voluntary event.”

“Operation? What type of operation?” Jian Chen blinked curiously.

Kendall gave an incredulous stare at Jian Chen before downing the wine in the cup from the table. “What other type of operation is there? We’re going to go to the Magical Beast Mountain Range to hunt for magical beasts. After all, our Flame Mercenaries was created for those who wanted to group together to hunt for magical beasts. With our current strength, selling the monster cores are all that we can do to earn money.”

“Then of course I’ll go. What other reason do I need to go to the Magical Beast Mountain Range?” Jian Chen chuckled as he replied.

“Brother Jian Chen, you don’t need to worry. Although you’ve a weaker strength than us, our combined profits won’t exclude you in any way. If your contributions are enough, then you’ll get your fair share in accordance to the distribution.

“Jian Chen, the Magical Beast Mountain Range is very evil and is filled with hidden dangers. In the case that we come across a Class 3 Magical Beast that the captain and your older brothers cannot handle, then it is very possible that your life will be lost. So Jian Chen, take your time and think about if you really want to go or not.” The speaker this time was the youngest person aside from Jian Chen, Xiao Dao. His shining eyes stared at Jian Chen with a sincere expression. From his voice, a serious tone could be heard, warning Jian Chen of the dangers with a heartfelt message.

Hearing Xiao Dao speak, everyone in the room grew even more solemn. A Class 3 Magical Beast was enough to bring about a huge amount of pressure. Even though Captain Kendall had the strength of a Primary Saint Master, but when it came to a Class 3 Magical Beast, he would only be able to protect himself. It was oftenly seen that a magical beast was stronger than its same level human counterpart. On the Tian Yuan Continent, if one wanted to go hunt for magical beasts at the same level as them, they wouldn’t stand a chance against the strong magical beasts without a strong cultivation or battle skill. This was practically an impossible task unless one had an attributed Saint Force. Otherwise, it was better to run away to preserve your own life.

And even though Captain Kendall was a Primary Saint Master, his Saint force didn’t have an attribute, so his attacks would be far weaker than those with an attribute. Against a regular Class 3

Magical Beast, while he could fight it, it was only to protect himself. If he were to come across a stronger or faster Class 3 Magical Beast, then even Captain Kendall would be hard pressed to escape with his life and most likely end up as a type of cuisine for the magical beasts to enjoy.

But no one in the room would have expected that the moment Jian Chen heard the words Class 3 Magical Beast, there would be disdain in his eyes. The moment he had become a Primary Great Saint, he had already started to hunt and kill Class 3 Magical Beasts by himself. It could be said that the regular Class 3 Magical Beasts posed no threat to Jian Chen at all other than the Silver Striped Golden Snake. By this point in time, Jian Chen's strength was already at the Middle Great Saint level which was even stronger than a Primary Great Saint many times over.

“Don't worry everyone, my strength isn't all that weak. After going to the Magical Beast Mountain Range once in the past, I've learned many things in there.” Jian Chen said.

Chapter 106: The Peculiar Dantian

Following that, Jian Chen and the Flame Mercenaries began to talk about the many interesting things they had heard about while traveling through the Tian Yuan Continent. As they talked, Jian Chen and the Flame Mercenaries had subconsciously grown closer and became friendlier.

But what was worth mentioning was that every single one of the members of the Flame Mercenaries were straightforward with their words, Captain Kendall included. All of them were quite emotional, and even though Jian Chen had revealed that he was a D ranked mercenary, not a single one of them had held him in contempt or treated him badly. On this continent where power was the ultimate ruling power, people like this were extremely rare..

And thus, Jian Chen's impression of the Flame Mercenaries had grown quickly.

Unaware of the passage of time, the afternoon glow quickly came in as a knock on the door alerted everyone on the inside of visitors.

“That's definitely Kabolds who is knocking.” Hearing the knock, Xiao Dao revealed a happy smile as he went to open the door.

As Jian Chen watched the door open, he wondered what the remaining two people of the Flame Mercenaries were like.

The door opened as two plain clothed people walked into the

room. The first person looked to be around 30 years old with a relatively built stature that matched Jian Chen's own physique and eyes that shone just as bright. The one following behind was a person who resembled someone around Captain Kendall's age. While his face was rather ordinary looking, the shine in his eyes were anything but ordinary.

“Kabolds, Deere, you two finally came back.” Captain Kendall laughed. “Come, let me introduce you to Jian Chen here who just recently joined our Flame Mercenaries. From this point on we are all brothers here, so it is important that we pay attention to one another.”

Kendall then turned to look at Jian Chen, “Brother Jian Chen, the younger person is called Kabolds. Not only is he quite strong, but he is the most intelligent person within our Flame mercenaries. Whatever action we considered on doing was suggested by Kabolds. The person next to him is Deere who is similarly the strongest mercenary within our group after me who is at the Peak level Great Saint. I believe that in 3 years, he will make a breakthrough and become a Saint Master.

Jian Chen cupped his hands in salute towards Kabolds and Deere as a sign of greeting and respect.

“Jian Chen, just by looking at you, I'm guessing you're around 20 years old so I'm not quite sure how strong you are exactly.” Kabolds stared at Jian Chen with a calculative look and a curious tone.

Jian Chen merely laughed without saying anything more before

taking out his mercenary badge from within his Space Belt, “It wasn’t too long ago that I became a D ranked mercenary.”

“Oh!” Kabolds nodded his head as he continued to stare at Jian Chen, his eyes revealing the curious glint that shone brightly. Then, he took his Space Belt and handed it towards Kendall, “Uncle Kendall, I’ve already prepared everything we’ll need for the operation tomorrow.”

Taking the Space Belt from Kabolds, Kendall said, “That’s good, then now that all the preparations for the trip is done, we will set out tomorrow morning. This time, we’ll definitely hunt plenty of magical beasts. Brother Jian Chen, do you have any complaints?”

“None, I will listen to Uncle Kendall.” Jian Chen laughed.

“Alright, then everybody should rest up for today, tomorrow will be another day to go all out.”

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Leaving the house afterwards, Jian Chen began to stroll around Wake City by himself. In regards to the operation tomorrow, Jian Chen didn’t care at all for it because with the Flame Mercenaries’ strength, if they didn’t want to die straight away, then they would first go hunt for Class 2 Magical beasts. Although the Flame Mercenaries had 1 Saint Master and 4 Great Saints, they weren’t able to compete with a Class 3 Magical Beast without trouble. So the Flame Mercenaries had no choice but to hunt for Class 2 Magical Beasts for now, but in Jian Chen’s case, it could even be

said that there was nothing that could pose a threat to him but a Class 4 Magical Beast.

Even if he were to come across a Class 4 Magical Beast he couldn't beat, Jian Chen was confident in his ability to run away at the very least. Because of these reasons, Jian Chen did not feel any type of pressure on him about tomorrow's operation.

After he had talked with the other mercenaries about what other supplies he would need, Jian Chen had already collected the majority of them and continued to stroll around Wake City.

It had been over a month since Jian Chen had first come to Wake City but the majority of his time was spent in the Magical Beast Mountain Range. He had only spent a few days inside a room, and even then, almost all of that time was spent cultivating. He didn't have any time to himself yet, so Jian Chen had wanted to take advantage of this free period to take a break.

Even though Wake City wasn't an immensely huge city, it was still large in its own right. Even with its expansive iron wall that encircled the city, a person would be able to reach the west side from the east if they walked fast enough in a single day. Because of its close proximity to the Magical Beast Mountain Range, the borders of the city was always lively, so a third of the lands in Wake City were owned by restaurants and private personnel.

Jian Chen continued to slowly stroll down the street and look at the many street vendors by the side. Many of these vendors were mercenaries, only a few of them were actual merchants. These stalls would hold many items, including herbal medicine, monster

cores, and even toys for children. Yet, the majority of the monster cores sold here were Class 1 ones, with Class 2 cores rarely showing up. Because of this, Jian Chen did not have much of an interest in this.

There were many magical beasts within the continent, but if a mercenary were to sell a monster core through a merchant they would only get 70% of market price. Because of this, many mercenaries would rather sell the items themselves since monster cores were always in high demand on the Tian Yuan Continent anyways. Even then, many people would still hire mercenaries to go and kill magical beasts instead of going themselves.

As Jian Chen enjoyed his leisurely walk, the azure and violet glow within his dantian began to pulse so wildly that it began to impact both his dantian and his body. Before, his dantian was like a still lake with not even a single ripple, but now, the lake had become a raging sea with waves threatening to drown anything in its path. Even with the use of his Saint Force, Jian Chen was unable to control this storm.

Jian Chen's face changed as he realized that the azure and violet glow was no longer controllable. This was the worst case scenario Jian Chen was afraid of. Although the two glows would generally float around within his dantian and take the majority of the energy within the Monster Cores, Jian Chen knew that sooner or later, these two glows would bring about a huge amount of trouble for him. And it seems that today was finally the day that the azure and violet glow would no longer stay peacefully within him.

Chapter 107: The Strange White Stone

Within Jian Chen's dantian, the azure and violet glows were constantly flickering as they revolved around each other in a circle and emitted a bright light that could be seen by the naked eye. At the same time, he felt a strange sensation within his head as the azure and violet glows started to move as if they had a will of their own and possessed their own independent mind and life. To Jian Chen, it was almost as if the two glows were in a joyous mood.

That's right, the feeling Jian Chen had felt was as if the azure and violet glows in his dantian were experiencing a great amount of joy and excitement. But Jian Chen was dumbfounded by this unbelievable conclusion, even the look on Jian Chen's face could show the amount of disbelief he had.

At the same time, another strange sensation entered Jian Chen's mind as if it came in out of thin air. From this sensation, Jian Chen realized that the two glows in his dantian had established some sort of subtle connection with an unknown thing. It was akin to a spiritual connection, but simultaneously, it also felt as if something was being locked away.

Trying to restrain his emotions, Jian Chen took a deep breath and slowly turned his head towards where the sensation was at its strongest. His eyes landed upon a street stall, where a 30 year old man was managing. In his stall was a pile of Class 1 Monster Cores and a few fantastic yet bizarre items.

Jian Chen's eyes swept past the items one by one until it landed upon a fist sized white stone. It was in a particularly peculiar shape

and was completely white, but other than that, it was unremarkable. Compared to other white stones, this one didn't seem to be any different.

Thanks to the unfathomable mystery that was the strange sensation, Jian Chen knew that it was this white stone that was causing such a stir within his dantian. The glows had some sort of a connection with this locked white stone, like a child would try to protect his most favourite treasure. The feeling of happiness was so strong, even Jian Chen was experiencing the sensation to a degree.

On the surface, Jian Chen's expression didn't change at all, but the moment he reached the street stall, his hand reached out to grab the fist sized white stone. But the moment his hand was about to pick it up, his face changed and let loose a surprised expression.

It was because this fist sized white stone was surprisingly heavy. The moment his hand made contact with it, the white stone did not move even a single centimeter.

“What a heavy stone!” Jian Chen couldn't help but to exclaim. Using his entire hand to clasp the stone firmly into his hand, he began to exert even more energy, and finally, the stone began to slowly rise from the table.

“Honored customer, are you looking at this strange stone?” The stall owner suddenly appeared next to Jian Chen with a smile.

Jian Chen slowly brought the fist sized stone to his attention and

stared at it. While it was only the size of a fist, it had already reached a weight of over 50 kilograms. If it were not for the fact that Jian Chen was a Middle Great Saint, picking up this stone in one hand would have been a strenuous task.

But when he picked up the strange white stone, he could clearly sense the excitement and happiness emanating from within his dantian. However, Jian Chen was skeptical of this sensation because only beings that were given life would be able to experience these types of emotions. And yet, the two glows within his dantian were clearly giving off this sensation, so could it be that the azure and violet glow in his dantian actually had self awareness? Perhaps they already had the ability to think for themselves.

When Jian Chen reached this line of thought, his entire body shook and his forehead began to drip with sweat as he began to feel like he had no control over his fate now. He couldn't help but sigh as he thought about his dantian problem. There was truly no way out of this problem; he had no idea or method in regards to the two glows in his dantian as they were out of his control. Even if Jian Chen wanted those two glows gone from his dantian, there would be no way for him to accomplish it.

“Ai, this is a blessing, not a curse, but also a curse I cannot escape from. It's best to forget about it since I've died once before. What else is there to care about? At worst, I'll just die again.” Jian Chen said to himself. Continuing to look at the white stone in his hand, he thought about his dantian even more.

The texture of this white stone was exceptionally unique. No

matter how much Jian Chen looked at it, he wasn't able to tell if it was made out of stone or fine iron, as not only was it heavy, but its density was beyond normal. Sending his internal Saint Force through his arm, Jian Chen tried to have it enter the white stone, only to feel a strong resistance the moment the Saint Force made contact with it. It was as if the white stone was a defensive fort, and his Saint Force, the invader, wasn't able to make a dent in its defenses.

The density of the white stone was extremely high, to the point that even Jian Chen was unable to use his Saint Force to enter it.

Jian Chen tore his eyes away from the white stone and looked at the stall owner and asked, "I don't know what kind of stone this is, but what uses are there for it?"

Hearing Jian Chen's question, the stall owner laughed in an embarrassed way, "Honored customer, to be truthful, even I don't know what this white stone is. Whatever it is used for, I don't know the answer to that either. But it is unusually heavy, so just after one look at it, one can tell that this white stone is no ordinary plaything."

"Then where did you find such a thing like this?" Jian Chen's eyes shone as he continued to ask.

Furrowing his eyebrows, the stall owner began to ponder the question before saying, "Honored customer, I've been asked that same question many times, but I've never told them. However you seem quite favorable to me, so I'll tell you where I found this." The stall owner's voice stopped as he pointed at the white stone, "In all

honesty, this white stone was found by me in the Magical Beast Mountain Range.”

“Oh!” Hearing this answer, Jian Chen’s eyes went back to the white stone once more. When he heard that the stall owner had picked up this item at the Magical Beast Mountain Range, it wasn’t of any surprise to him, after all, there was always an opportunity anywhere for anyone. Even a farmer could stumble upon gold or another precious mineral while digging his farm.

The stall owner looked at the interested face of Jian Chen and opened his mouth once more, “Honored customer, this white stone has been in my possession for many years now. If it were not for the fact that I am in need of money, then I wouldn’t have put it out on display in the first place. Seeing you are quite interested in it, why don’t you buy it?”

Jian Chen looked at the white stone with one eye as he sized it up before looking back to the stall owner, “How much is this white stone?” His tone was especially flat. This white stone’s very existence had caused many questions for him, so it was only right for him to buy it.

Chapter 108: How Much Is It?

“This is...” Seeing the expression on Jian Chen’s face, the stall owner had a look of hesitation. Although he knew that this white stone was not an ordinary item by any means, he still didn’t know what use it had. In order to understand the history behind this white stone, he had dove into multiple books about ancient treasures, but found nothing. He had even asked many close friends only to come up empty handed. So after thinking it over, he had finally set a concrete price for this white stone.

It was a shame that on this Tian Yuan Continent, there weren’t many people that knew about this strange white stone, nor did anyone ever show this much curiosity toward it. But for those who were still curious enough to buy it, the moment they heard the price, every single person had put down the stone and immediately left. For while the stall owner knew this stone wasn’t regular, he didn’t know its use, but he still wanted to sell it for a decent price. So the moment everyone heard his price for the stone, they didn’t hesitate to drop the stone and forget about it.

When Jian Chen had asked about the price for this white stone, the stall owner felt undecided once more. He was really in need of money right now, so it could be said that this white stone was his sole way of earning money. If he set the price too high, then he was afraid that this Jian Chen would drop the stone and walk away like the other customers, but if he set the price too low, then he would feel uneasy in his heart. So with the price in question, his heart and mind were in contradiction with each other and didn’t know what price to give.

After hesitating, the stall owner opened his mouth, “Honored

customer, if you are really interested in this white stone, then please state your price for it.”

Hearing this, Jian Chen looked at the man with an amused smile, “This is obviously your item, so it’s only right for the price to be decided by you, why would you want me to name a price?”

The stall owner became embarrassed as he listened to Jian Chen and laughed awkwardly, “Honored customer, it isn’t that I’m unwilling to say the price, rather it’s because I’m afraid that if I say a price, you’ll be scared away. I’ve had many people express their interest in this white stone, but the moment they heard my price, they all put it down and left.”

“Oh, then how much do you think this white stone is worth?” Jian Chen asked with interest. He was already completely determined to buy this white stone regardless of the price or the true use of it. If it could provoke such a strong reaction from the azure and violet glow in his dantian, then this was no ordinary item. He couldn’t say for sure, but this white stone could possibly solve the mystery about his dantian problems.

So for that reason, Jian Chen was very determined to win this object.

The stall owner bit his lip as he looked at Jian Chen, “Honored customer, if you are this adamant in buying the white stone, then I shall tell you the price. Look here, will this much do?” With that said, the stall owner held out five fingers on his hand as if to give Jian Chen a high-five.

Seeing this movement, Jian Chen couldn't help but have a joking expression on his face as he said uncertainly, "Could it be you're selling this for 50 Gold Coins?"

Hearing this, the stall owner grew red in the face from the paltry amount, as if the amount Jian Chen had offered differed from his by thousands of coins.

The stall owner sighed and spoke, "Honored customer, I will be straightforward with you and be clear. I want to sell this stone for 500 Purple Coins, do you still want it?" As he spoke, the stall owner's eyes stared at Jian Chen closely.

"What! 500 Purple Coins! Are you joking?" Jian Chen cried out in shock as he looked at the stall owner in disbelief. The moment he had heard the words "Purple Coin", Jian Chen's lips felt especially heavy. 500 Purple Coins was equivalent to 50,000 Gold Coins.

The stall owner's face grew even redder as he understood the look on Jian Chen's face. He knew that 500 Purple Coins was a price that would not have any buyers.

"Th-that is...honored customer, if you can offer up a price that I can agree to, then at the very least I can sell it to you." The stall owner said in an agonized tone.

With this, Jian Chen sucked in a deep breath as he sized up the white stone in his hand with uncertainty.

After a long time, Jian Chen finally made up his mind. “My highest price will be 100 Purple Coins, whether I buy it or not, it’s up to you.” With that, he stared at the stall owner with a heavy glance, but even he was quite nervous within his heart. Jian Chen was determined to get this white stone, if he could easily buy it here, then it would be for the best. Even then, 100 Purple Coins was not a small amount at all for a stall owner.

Jian Chen had already seen what this 30 year old stall owner was like. Since the stall owner had such a shrewd mind, there was no way Jian Chen could reveal how interested he was in the white stone. Otherwise, if the stall owner found out how much he wanted it, who knew how high the price would go up.

Not only that, but Jian Chen wasn’t willing to let others know how much money he had on him. If it was found out, then those with sinister purposes would possibly come track him down looking for trouble. Although, with his strength, he wasn’t even afraid of enemies at the Saint Master level, but he wanted to avoid as much trouble as he possibly could.

The moment the stall owner heard Jian Chen’s offer of 100 Purple Coins, he grew happy but then immediately grew embarrassed. “Honored Customer, could you possibly add a little more to that?”

Jian Chen chuckled as he shook his head. Seeing the happy glint in the stall owner’s eyes, Jian Chen understood what the man was thinking of.

Seeing how Jian Chen wasn't going to go any higher with his price, the man looked a little disappointed. But after thinking it over while biting his lips, he nodded his head, "Okay, 100 Purple Coins it is, we have a deal!"

Taking out the 100 Purple Coins from within his Space Belt, Jian Chen slowly counted them out for the stall owner and then took the white stone for himself to store into his Space Belt before departing from the stall.

Jian Chen had really wanted to study this strange white stone and its purpose, but in this busy street where people flowed like water in a river, this was not the best place for it.

However, as Jian Chen left the area, two people had noticed him. These two people both looked to be 20 years old and both had a weak stature.

"Xiao San, it looks as if we've stumbled across an easy target." The shriveled youth on the left watched Jian Chen leave the area as he spoke with an excited voice.

The one called Xiao San nodded their head, "Right, that person doesn't seem too old, so his strength should be quite weak. Since he's also by himself, this is a good opportunity. Seeing him grab that many Purple Coins, I'm willing to bet that, that person will have more on him. Huang Hou Er, you go follow him while I go notify the rest." With that, Xiao San quickly disappeared into the crowd while Huang Hou Er began to follow Jian Chen.

Chapter 109: Robbery Encounter

Jian Chen continued to walk down the street after purchasing the white stone. Right now Jian Chen wasn't all that focused on researching the white stone, instead, he was lazily strolling around the street just in case he would be lucky enough to find another treasure.

However, what was strange for Jian Chen was that after he had bought the white stone, the azure and violet glow in his dantian had already calmed down. Although, Jian Chen no longer cared about the matter anymore and only wanted nighttime to come so that he could study the white stone. If he was lucky, he would be able to make a discovery and figure out how to solve the problem with his dantian.

If he could resolve the problem with his dantian, then his cultivation rate would improve without any more problems. Although the azure and violet glows were constantly taking a huge amount of his cultivation, they had allowed Jian Chen to absorb the energy from the monster cores without being affected by the berserk element within them. His consumption rate was still far too large, and Jian Chen was worried about his cultivation.

If it were up to him, Jian Chen would rather have his original cultivation speed, even if he could no longer easily handle the berserk element in the monster cores, he would find a way to deal with them. He did not want a situation that he could not control, because to Jian Chen, the azure and violet glow was like a ticking time bomb. They could go off at any time, and although he would have a slower cultivation rate, he wouldn't need to worry about getting more monster cores every single day. Plus, the amount of

energy he would absorb from the monster core would be more than the amount he was currently absorbing. A Class 3 Monster Core was already enough to support his cultivation for several days; it could even last him dozens of days before all of the energy was consumed. In that case, as long as Jian Chen spent an entire day hunting magical beasts or Monster Cores, it was enough for him to train for several months. As the amount of time spent on hunting magical beasts decreased, the amount of time spent on cultivating would increase. Based on his calculations, even if the azure and violet glows in his dantian were removed, they wouldn't have much of an impact on Jian Chen's overall cultivation speed.

Jian Chen wandered around the busy streets aimlessly and stared at the various street stalls on the side. Occasionally he would walk into a random store and take a look around. After discovering this strange white stone, Jian Chen was now curious if he could find any other fantastical things while traveling up and down the market street. Perhaps if he was lucky, he would find yet another object that would stir attention within his dantian.

It was unfortunate that while he was walking on the market, he did not see anything else of value.

"It seems that these items cannot be found so easily." Jian Chen sighed with disappointment. Seeing how the sky was already getting dark, he had lost interest in trying to find anything new.

Jian Chen stared off in the distance as he gave a grim smile, "Right now there's not enough time. After I take care of the people behind me, I'll go rest up at a restaurant. Then tomorrow I'll head out with everyone toward the Magical Beast Mountain Range." As

he said that, Jian Chen looked around himself for a less populated alleyway to walk through.

Afterward, Jian Chen walked through the alleyway slowly almost as if he was still window shopping. Just the road he was now traveling on was a more isolated path where less people traveled.

Once more crossing into another secluded alleyway, Jian Chen finally ended up in a completely isolated lane with a dead end that was 4 meters tall.

Stopping where he stood, Jian Chen turned around to be greeted with an empty road. With a look of disdain, he spoke evenly, "Friends, you've walked so far with me already, could it be you're still unwilling to show yourself?"

Not long after Jian Chen had spoke, a group of people walked out into the secluded lane. There was a dozen people around, with each person's age ranging from 20 to 30 years old, the oldest one of them looked to be around 40 years old.

The moment the dozen people appeared, they began to spread out in formation and blocked up the entire width of the alley. Clearly, they didn't want to let Jian Chen leave the alley, but they didn't stop there. As they blocked up the alley, each person began to slowly walk toward Jian Chen while giving him an intense stare, making them look like fiends.

Jian Chen could only smile as he watched the people approach. To him, these people were not fiendish looking at all. He could tell

how strong they were with his spirit, so the exact strength of each of the people here was clear to him. Among the group, the weakest members hadn't even reached the Saint level while three other members were at the Great Saint level. The biggest surprise was that the oldest member there was unexpectedly at the Saint Master level. Even the captain of the Flame Mercenaries, Captain Kendall was weaker than this person by a single tier, this man was a Middle Saint Master.

This man was around 40 years old and wore a bluish green robe. He had an exceptionally fierce expression on his face with his short hair swaying in the wind slightly. Right under his mouth was a large beard that was very predominant.

“Dear friends, after walking so far down the path with this one, one has to wonder what you are doing.” Jian Chen said with a trace of a smile, but his tone was still flat.

The eldest male with the power of a Middle Saint Master stared fiercely at Jian Chen and growled, “So you knew we were here all along.”

Jian Chen crossed his arms in front of his chest with a smile, “Of course, you were following me so adamantly while traveling on the same road for so long, how would a person not notice?”

Hearing Jian Chen, the elder man looked at Jian Chen with a sudden look of realization, “So it was like this, it would appear that we were too careless then.” Then the man's face changed as his surprise look suddenly grew cold. “Kid, right now this road has been blocked by us, if you don't want to die, then hand over every

single coin and item within your Space Belt. Otherwise, prepare yourself to die here.”

“If you want the things within my possession, then let’s see if you have the strength to do so.” Jian Chen said impassively. However, with each passing word, his tone grew colder and colder.

With that said, the elder man didn’t bother to say anything else and instead waved his hand. “Everyone forward! Bring him down and whatever he has will be ours!”

The entire formation began to rush toward Jian Chen as they each brought out their Saint Weapons. For those who hadn’t yet reached the Saint level, there was a simple iron sword and shield in their hands as they charged fearlessly at him.

Seeing the dozen people approach, Jian Chen sneered in disdain. Right as they got within 10 meters of him, he leapt into the air as if swallowed up by the sky. Both of his legs kicked off of the walls with an impressive amount of strength as he flew over the heads of the people below. As he flew toward the 40 year old man, a familiar silver colored sword appeared in his right hand as it then transformed into a silver streak of lightning. With a speed that was difficult for the naked eye to see, the sword stabbed at the middle aged man’s throat.

After countless of improvements to his body, Jian Chen’s body was relentlessly refined by the special properties of the Saint Force. So now his strength was far stronger than his previous life thanks to that same Saint Force, and even his speed had increased many times over. Even with such an ordinary looking sword, its

speed was so fast that even for a Great Saint it was hard to dodge.

After all, if one wanted to increase their attack speed, they would need to use their Saint Force to enhance it, but this was a hard strain on the physical body. So thanks to Jian Chen's special body and fast swordplay, it was a better improvement to his previous life. Even compared to those on the Tian Yuan Continent, aside from those who were stronger than Jian Chen, he was able to bypass the defenses of anyone at his strength level or below. If Jian Chen were to use his entire strength in his attacks, then no one at his level of strength would have an opportunity to retaliate and would have their throats stabbed before they knew it.

Seeing Jian Chen charge at him so fiercely, the middle aged man let out a sneer as he brought the huge axe up into the air. With both hands clasping the handle, a great amount of Saint Force was constantly flowing into his Saint Weapon as he cried out loud and then chopped down at Jian Chen with all his might.

“Ding!”

The Light Wind Sword and the axe made contact with each other, causing a large explosion to take place. Following the sound, a large vibration was inflicted onto the man with an intensity so strong, it had caused his legs to weaken and stumble back a step or two. His eyes widened in astonishment as he stared disbelievingly at his opponent.

This was because the man at first did not take Jian Chen's actions seriously. To him, Jian Chen was no more than a 20 year old man who would possibly only have the strength of a Saint at the most.

Even if he was a genius, then he would be no higher than a Primary Great Saint so as far as he was concerned, a person like this was no match for his troops. After this exchange of blows, the man was shocked at this new discovery. Even though he hadn't placed too low of an importance on Jian Chen, this strength of his was far beyond his expectations. With this strength, the man estimated that Jian Chen was no weaker than he was.

Jian Chen did a somersault in midair as he descended back down onto the ground. Dispersing the shock from the initial blow with ease, he didn't take a pause even after landing on the ground. Immediately charging toward the elder person once more, the Light Wind Sword in his hand emitted a hazy glow of light that wrapped the entirety of the blade. To the naked eye, the sword looked as if it was a hazy silver ray of light as it shot toward the man's throat with a ridiculous speed.

Chapter 110: Traveling To The Magical Beast Mountain Range

“Good approach!” The 40 year old man shouted. While brandishing his Saint Weapon without the slightest trace of fear, his face grew solemn as he slashed at Jian Chen.

“Ding ding ding!”

The previously quiet alley suddenly grew loud with the sounds of Saint Weapons clashing with each other as Jian Chen and the elderly man continued to battle it out between them. Even though he was a Middle Great Saint fighting against a Middle Saint Master, he had not yet fallen despite it being a fierce battle.

Jian Chen was exceptionally nimble as he moved around his opponent like a demon. The Light Wind Sword in his hand relentlessly flashed toward the man’s larynx and each time the man’s axe blocked his strikes. From the start, Jian Chen’s attacks were like tidal waves of blows that left almost no chance for the man to retaliate, but gradually, the tidal wave of blows had slowly evolved into a fierce storm of blades that caused the man to not have any opportunities to retaliate.

To be accurate, it wasn’t that the man was unable to retaliate. In actuality, it was that if he were to try to strike back, then he was afraid that his attack would miss Jian Chen, and he would get a sword through his throat for his troubles.

The man’s entire forehead was now dripping with perspiration as

he continued to fight. He didn't think that this seemingly 20 year old male would possess such a strong amount of strength at the Middle Saint level. Not only was he narrowly dodging the blows as is, but what made the man afraid the most was that this youth's sword play was far too quick. Not only was his speed fast enough to make anyone astonished, the amount of times he could strike was intimidating as well.

Right now, there was a large amount of regret within the 40 year old man's heart. If he had known about Jian Chen's strength earlier, then he wouldn't have come over to try and rob him.

On the side of the alleyway, the other people stared sluggishly at the fierce battle between Jian Chen and their boss. Just like the other man, no one had thought that Jian Chen, who looked to be much younger than they were, would be able to contend against their boss in terms of strength. Despite having a dozen people, when they looked at this fight, they all knew that they would not be able to join in. If they were to rashly charge in, all they would accomplish would be a vain death. Even though they had 3 Great Saints, but even with the strength of the Great Saints, they were painfully aware that their boss was in a disadvantageous position thanks to Jian Chen's display of power. Since he could only block now, it could be said that the boss' life could be taken at any moment without trouble, and if they were to charge in, then they would be of no use. All of them knew that death would be the only thing awaiting them since they knew that their speed was not enough to dodge the lightning quick sword that belongs to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen and the middle aged man once again fought to another stand still, but the middle aged man was still in a bad position. Jian

Chen stared at the man impassively as his right arm lashed out, transforming the Light Wind Sword into a ray of silver light that streaked toward the man's throat once more. In a flash, the sword approached the man's throat— in the history of their battle so far, this was the fastest sword stroke he had displayed.

The middle aged man's face lost all shades of color in fright. Against a sword as fast as this, he practically had lost any chance of dodging or blocking this movement. In the eyes of the 40 year old man, this sword had already reached an inconceivable amount of speed, and could no longer be dodged by someone like him.

So in an instant, the man's face had become deathly pale, but at the moment where his death was about to come to pass, the sword had reached the skin of his throat and stopped its momentum suddenly. At such a crucial moment like this, the Light Wind Sword had stopped its forward thrust, only allowing the tip of the blade to touch the man's throat.

Despite the tip of the Light Wind Sword stopping at the skin of his throat, the man had suddenly felt that it was becoming extremely difficult to breathe. At the same time, he was feeling a very sharp point of pain from where the tip was touching against his throat, almost as if the sword had already pierced his throat.

The middle aged man stood lifelessly where he was. At this point, he was completely terrified of moving, he was afraid that if he were to make the slightest movement, Jian Chen would then relentlessly plunge his sword into his neck. So right now, the man's face was dripping with cold sweat.

“Sw...swor..swordsman...please...please spare my life! Ne..next time, this lowly one won’t bother swordsman ever again!” The man’s words were filled with terror for Jian Chen, each word barely coming out stronger than a stutter. Right now, his life was at the mercy of Jian Chen, so the thought of having no face toward someone as young as Jian Chen wasn’t a problem for him. To him, as long as he could keep his life, then even kneeling toward Jian Chen wouldn’t be an impossible task.

Jian Chen stared at the middle aged man with a small sneer. Slowly bringing back his sword, he said emotionlessly, “My mood today is quite good, so I do not have a desire to kill anyone. You better behave yourself in the future and not let me catch you doing something like this. With the Magical Beast Mountain Range being so close by and your strength being decent enough, a few low leveled magical beasts would be well in your capability to earn money.” With that said, Jian Chen left the alleyway.

“Yes, yes, we will definitely comply with swordsman’s command. We will never do such a thing again.” The middle aged man said frantically. It was almost as if the man was completely compliant with Jian Chen’s orders.

The moment Jian Chen’s shadow left the alleyway, the middle aged man let out a long breath of air and wiped his forehead clean of his sweat. Thinking back to that fight of life or death for him, the man was absolutely terrified out of his wits. In that recent moment, his entire life was hanging by a thread, ready to be severed.

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Leaving the alleyway, Jian Chen cut back into the busy roads before walking into a nearby restaurant. During the night, Jian Chen sat down on his bed and began to study the white stone in his possession.

“What exactly is this item? It looks like a stone, but the material it’s made from isn’t like a stone at all. One could say it’s made of iron, but at the same time, one cannot say that.” Staring at the white stone in his hand, Jian Chen was full of doubt and misgivings about it.

From the start, it was because of the azure and violet glow in his dantian that made him interested in this white stone. At the beginning, it was the azure and violet glow that had initially felt happy and excited, but the moment after he had bought the white stone, his dantian had once more reverted back to its quiet state. Even with the white stone in the palm of his hand, the twin glows were not at all attracted to it in any way now.

Jian Chen himself did not have the slightest understanding of the history behind this white stone. Although he had the expansive library from Kargath Academy as his source of knowledge, he still did not have a single piece of information about it.

Restlessly, Jian Chen continued to study the white stone for the rest of the day. Aside from knowing that this stone was exceptionally solid, there wasn’t any other piece of information he could glean from it. Whether he used water to boil it or fire to burn it, the white stone didn’t have a single reaction or change. With no other choice, Jian Chen stuffed the white stone back into his Space

Belt.

Observing the glows in his dantian once more, he noticed that it was as peaceful as ever, not having any of the previous excitement shown earlier in the day. While the two glows were housed within Jian Chen's dantian, he was completely unable to do anything about the two. He couldn't get up close with the dantian, and could only observe these mysterious things from afar. If he got any closer, then he would suffer a strong feedback that he couldn't yet break through. So for that reason, Jian Chen had decided that trying to get any closer to them in his dantian would be a forbidden action.

“Ai!” Jian Chen sighed. Once he had come to this conclusion, he didn't know if this was a blessing or a curse.

That night, Jian Chen was not cultivating for once. Instead, he was sleeping in his bed. For the first time in 3 months since he had left Gesun Kingdom, this would be the first night he would be able to sleep.

Sleeping was a good way to restore his spirit, and with his large amount of spirit, if he were to refrain from using the Spirit Sword or control the light Saint Force, then it would be possible for him to go for a few days and nights without sleep. Not only that, but if he were to cultivate, then his spirit would be slowly recovered. So for that reason, Jian Chen hadn't slept at all since there was no need for him to.

The next morning, Jian Chen woke up and looked outside to see the early morning scenery. Taking in a fresh breath of morning

air, he sighed, “I haven’t slept in months, so I nearly forgot how good sleeping was. Now that I have slept again, it really was very comfortable!”

Soon after, Jian Chen left the restaurant and rode a horse toward where Kendall was waiting for everyone.

The Flame Mercenaries were again staying over at the same house as before. At that moment, 8 members of the Flame Mercenaries were still resting inside. Although they were a small mercenary group, they didn’t have the funds to build a bigger house, so at the very least they could only afford a small house.

Arriving at the house, Jian Chen tied his horse to a fixed fence post and prepared to knock on the door. Before he could knock, a weak looking youth suddenly opened the door. The moment he saw Jian Chen, his eyes loosened in intensity as he backed away from the door, this was the second youngest member of the mercenary group– Xiao Dao.

Jian Chen gave a small smile and said, “Xiao Dao, are you planning to go out?”

Xiao Dao chuckled, “I only just heard the sounds of a horse, so I thought it was you for sure. Opening the door, I see that I was right. Come in Jian Chen, everyone’s already waiting for you.”

Chapter 111: Peaceful At Last

Just as Jian Chen entered the house, he saw Captain Kendall sitting with the other members eating breakfast. On the table was a huge steaming plate of beef.

“Jian Chen, come and eat! Today we shall be hunting, so you need to eat your fill so that you can be full of energy when you’re fighting against the magical beasts.” Kendall motioned for Jian Chen to sit down next to him at the long table.

Hu Po tore a piece of beef off and began to chew it, “That’s right, today we must eat until our stomachs are full. If we come across a strong magical beast, if we can’t kill it, we can at least run away.”

Kendall looked at Hu Po with a disapproving look, “Hu Po, do you really want us to come across a magical beast we cannot defeat? If we come across a Class 4 Magical Beast that specializes in speed, then the lives of our group will be forfeited to the Magic Beast Mountain Range.”

“Kendall, I’m not just full of hot air. We have to take this seriously I know. While Class 4 Magical Beasts scare me, we aren’t going to the depths of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, so we won’t be seeing any Class 4 Magical Beasts there.” Hu Po said.

Sitting down on the table, Jian Chen took a piece of beef and chewed it with his mouth, “Uncle Kendall, what Hu Po said isn’t wrong. Class 4 Magical Beasts are generally within the depths of the mountain range, as long as we don’t go too far in, then we

won't see any." Jian Chen had spent a decent amount of time there, so he was familiar with the environment there.

"Something like that can't be guaranteed." Kendall's face grew serious as he looked around the table, "Even though we're only going to be around the outskirts of the mountain range, no one should drop their guard. While the majority of Class 4 Magical Beasts reside in the depths of the mountain range, there are still a few exceptions. A few bored Class 4 Magical Beasts could chase a few weaker ones to the outskirts of the mountain range. Something like this can happen, on the Tian Yuan Continent, this is not a rare occurrence, it has happened many times before."

Jian Chen nodded his head at this. He agreed with Captain Kendall's words because he had read many times in books that strong magical beasts would occasionally come out of their usual place as a result of boredom. However, this didn't happen enough for it to be extremely probable. In Jian Chen's time in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, he had never met a Class 4 Magical Beast while on the outskirts of the mountain range, and even Class 3 Magical Beasts were rare there.

"This piece of information is something we all know, and while we haven't yet come across such an event, some others have. Alright, Kendall, stop talking about it, it makes everyone's heart feel heavy. If we really come across such an event, then it'll be our bad luck. Lets just eat for now and then hit the road." The next one to speak was the one who wasn't that much younger than Captain Kendall, as well as being one of the strongest mercenaries in the group—Deere. With the strength of a Peak Great Saint, he was already close to becoming a Saint Master.

The moment Deere spoke, everyone became calm once more and resumed eating from the plate of beef. In a flash, the platter of beef had quickly been wiped clean, leaving behind only bits and pieces.

After the food was finished, everyone immediately set out on the road. Within their group of 10, only Jian Chen was riding on horseback while everyone else walked on foot.

“Jian Chen, when we get to the Magical Beast Mountain Range, what will you do about your horse? You can’t possibly bring the horse in there.” Kendall asked Jian Chen.

Hearing Kendall, Jian Chen began to laugh as he patted the white mane of his horse. “There’s still 20 kilometers until we arrive at the mountain range. When we get there, I’ll let the horse go.”

Xiao Dao immediately bounded forward when he heard what Jian Chen said and cried out, “That can’t be, Jian Chen! Could it be you want to let the horse go free? You’re wasting such a large amount of money.”

Jian Chen could only laugh and say, “If I’m letting it go, then why not let it have its freedom? On such a large continent, whether or not it can survive, it’ll be up to its luck.” Horses were the most common of animals on the continent as well as the most inferior and abundant type of transportation. Wild animals were also able to absorb the World Essence and eat a few treasures to become magical beasts. Even these horses had the ability to become one. Jian Chen had once read that 100 years ago, there was a horse with the strength of a Class 5 Magical Beast, however, its potential was limited and its innate ability was lacking. Advancing

in strength for them was a difficult path as well as a long one.

Even though most of the people were walking on foot, the journey was progressing quickly. After two hours of traveling, everyone had finally reached the foot of the Magical Beast Mountain Range.

Seeing the verdant plant life in front of him, Jian Chen disembarked from his horse and headed into the forest along with the group. The white horse stayed behind, but Jian Chen knew that after a while, it would leave by itself.

“From here on out, be careful everyone. Although the forests here have more wild animals than magical beasts, that doesn’t mean we can drop our guards.” Captain Kendall looked at everyone solemnly before continuing to say, “Deere, Hu Po and I will walk in front of the group, Zhou Da Kai, Zhou Xiao Kai and Chang Ning Feng will walk behind the group. The rest will be in between us six.”

After that, the group maintained the position ordered by Kendall and moved onward. On the road, although many wild animals had attacked them, their strength was incomparable to the Class 1 Magical Beasts who were also not a threat to their group.

After 6 hours, the Flame Mercenaries finally reached the other side of the forest and entered the outskirts of the Magical Beast Mountain Range where the Class 1 Magical Beasts resided.

Captain Kendall who was walking ahead of the group twisted his

head back and said to everyone, “Everyone prepare yourself to fight! From here on out, Class 1 and 2 Magical Beasts will be roaming around.”

However even before Captain Kendall had warned everyone, everyone but Jian Chen had already long since prepared themselves for battle and stared around themselves intensely.

The group continued to walk into the outskirts of the mountain range, but after walking for 4 hours, they had not seen a single Magical Beast.

Within the group, Jian Chen continued to walk with his eyes flickering with indifference. With each step he took, he was already aware of every finite detail of the magical beast’s activity around them. However, whenever a magical beast was hiding in the tall bushes 10 meters away from them, they would retreat. Not a single one would dare attack them, leaving Jian Chen to be perplexed beyond belief on why they were doing that.

“Could it be that the magical beasts have realized the strength of our group and don’t want to die?” Jian Chen’s eyebrows furrowed together as he thought to himself. When he had been in the Magical Beast Mountain Range before, he had never come across such behavior.

Unable to take it anymore, Jian Chen asked, “Uncle Kendall, do you not feel as if something is wrong?”

Jian Chen’s question had been heard by the sensitive ears of

everyone in the group. The entire group turned around to look at him as Kendall asked, “Jian Chen, what exactly is wrong here?”

Jian Chen hesitated for a moment before saying, “This place is where Class 1 Magical Beasts roam about, so why is it we have not come across a single one yet?”

Upon hearing this, everyone let loose a relieved breath of air. They had thought that Jian Chen actually had something in mind that was related to an unfavorable event.

Kendall laughed and said, “Jian Chen, this is actually very common. Although this is the roaming grounds for Class 1 Magical Beasts, but the Magical Beast Mountain Range is vast, and this is only just one of the many roads. Not coming across a magical beast isn’t rare, every single time we’ve entered here in the past it has been like this.”

Jian Chen’s eyebrows furrowed together even more, in his heart, he knew that this wasn’t how it was supposed to be.

“Captain Kendall, could it be that you’ve never come across a Class 1 Magical Beast yet?” Jian Chen asked.

“It’s not that, we just merely don’t see one often. The majority of the beasts that appear are Class 2 and 3. Of course, there are times where we don’t see a single Class 1 Magical Beast at all.” He answered Jian Chen’s questions patiently.

“Captain Kendall, then on average, how many Monster Cores do you usually get?” Jian Chen asked.

“Not too few,” Captain Kendall thought about it before saying, “On average, we can get 4 or 5 Class 2 Monster Cores in a single day, and maybe 6 or 7 if our luck is good. Class 3 Monster Cores will be less since Class 3 Magical Beasts don’t roam around here as often. So the chances of seeing one are slim, and since Class 3 Magical Beasts are hard to kill as well, it’ll be difficult for us to avoid any injuries. For that reason, if we come across any Class 3 Magical Beast, we try not to provoke it.”

Kendall paused for a moment before saying, “When Deere makes a breakthrough to a Saint Master, then with our combined strength, it will be easy to kill a Class 3 Magical Beast. However, until Deere becomes a Saint Master, we need to do our best and avoid Class 3 Magical Beasts. Although Class 3 Monster Cores sell for a higher price than Class 2 Monster Cores, I don’t wish to see any casualties. If we get a little bit more money in exchange for our lives, what use would that be?”

Chapter 112: Fighting The Black Tiger

Hearing Captain Kendall, Jian Chen nodded his head in approval. His impression of Kendall had once more grown, the evil in Kendall's heart was no more than Jian Chen's own in his previous life. With a selfless attitude like that, no person would refuse to lay down their lives for such a captain. Most importantly, with the captain's strength of a Primary Saint Master, although he couldn't kill a Class 3 Magical Beast by himself, he could at least give Class 2 Magical Beasts a hard time. It was a shame that he didn't fight Class 2 Magical Beasts by himself, if he did his profits would be much higher. To join with Saints and Great Saints to hunt and kill magical beasts, although the profit distribution was merit based, his own profits would still be many times smaller than going solo. In fact, the difference would be so huge that it wouldn't even be half the amount of what he could get by himself.

With hearing just this bit, Jian Chen truly admired Captain Kendall. However, when it came to Captain Kendall and the amount of profit they earned in the Magical Beast Forest in the past, he was shocked into silence. With the captain being of the Saint Master level and 5 other members being Great Saints, it was truly a pathetic amount of monster cores that they earned. Jian Chen just couldn't believe it, when he had gone solo within the Magical Beast Mountain Range, in the span of a day, he had collected at least 20 Class 2 Magical Beast Cores. Even Class 3 Monster Cores had numbered around a dozen. Compared to what the Flame Mercenaries got, the difference between the two truly could not be compared.

At that moment, Jian Chen's ear trembled slightly as he turned his head to look at the tall grass nearby. Inside, he could sense the movement of a magical beast moving about from 10 meters away.

However, this magical beast was barely making any movements, so even Captain Kendall wasn't able to detect its presence.

The magical beast paused for a moment, as if it were hesitating before it decided if it wanted to attack the group Jian Chen was in. In the end, it silently retreated.

Sensing the magical beast's retreat, Jian Chen's mind was filled with doubt.

"What's happening? Could it be that the magical beasts have recognized the strength of our group and realized that its own strength was only enough to send itself to its death?" Jian Chen wondered, but as he thought about that, another question came into his mind. With the magical beast being so low in strength, how could it possibly have the knowledge to make such a decision?

When Jian Chen had traveled to the Magical Beast Mountain Range, no matter if it was a Class 1 or 2 Magical Beast, or even a Class 3 Magical Beast, they would scurry out of their hiding spots to attack him. Even if they were in a hidden area, they would try to make a sneak attack, making this situation a lot more different than what Jian Chen was expecting.

"Just what is going on, could it be our group has too many people in it? That could be why the magical beasts aren't attacking." Jian Chen looked backward with a doubtful look. On this single road, he had only seen the traces of a single magical beast.

At that moment, a black blur came rushing out of the tall grass

toward Captain Kendall who was at the front of the group.

Everyone had already prepared themselves for this situation. So the moment the black blur came into view, it had already been spotted by Kendall and Deere. Looking at the incoming target, Kendall laughed and cried out, “One finally came!”. A large axe sharp enough to cut the air around it appeared in his hand. With a fluid motion, the axe was swung in a downward motion toward the black blur.

When Kendall had begun to attack, Deere stood behind him with his broadsword out and ready to swing.

“Ding!”

Kendall’s axe and the black blur made contact in midair, creating a large explosion of sound. The black blur came to a grinding halt as the axe was sent recoiling backward.

The black blur flew backwards into the air for five meters before landing back down on the ground. The moment it touched the ground, every single member of the group got to see what had just attacked them. It was a tiger whose mane was completely black. Both paws had many sharpened claws, while some of them had even looked to be stained with blood.

“Brothers, surround it!” Kendall called out before grabbing his axe to once more attack the black tiger. Hu Po, Chang Ning Feng and the two Zhou twins encircled the black tiger in all four directions in order to prevent it from getting away. Deere, who had

the power of a Great Saint, entered the circular ring and began to fight it with Kendall.

This Black Tiger was only a Class 2 Magical Beast, and with a Saint Master and a Peak Great Saint fighting it, this Black Tiger didn't have a chance of surviving. In a flash, the Black Tiger's body was filled with wounds as blood flowed freely from it. As a result, its normally black body was dyed red.

Jian Chen, Xiao Dao and Yun Xuan stood and watched the battle from afar. While the magical beast had a natural superiority in instincts, this was only a Class 2 Magical Beast that was no match for a Great Saint. So for this battle, Xiao Dao and the other two Saints were unable to intervene without fear of risking a serious injury.

Watching Kendall and Deere fight it out, Xiao Dao was very eager to join in on the fight. Observing the two fight with the Black Tiger, Xiao Dao looked as if he had wanted nothing more than to reincarnate into Kendall and fight against the Black Tiger for a countless number of rounds.

“I have to work hard and cultivate so that I can become a Saint Master quickly. This way, I can hunt and kill Class 2 Magical Beasts by myself.” Xiao Dao remarked as he bit his lips in determination.

Hearing this, Yun Xuan who was standing by his side laughed and said, “Xiao Dao, your strength right now should be at the Middle Saint so its still far in the future until you become a Saint Master. With your cultivation talent, you should be around 40 years old before you become a Saint Master, if not older.”

“Forty years old, so what? Didn’t Captain become a Saint Master at that age? Either way, I’ll eventually reach the Saint Master level.” Xiao Dao replied in a slightly dissatisfied tone. With a yearning expression reflected in his gaze, he muttered, “Wait until I gain the strength of a Saint Master. Then I can adventure around Magical Beast Mountain Range alone, and fight the magical beasts at close quarters, one-on-one. It will be an impressive sight.”

Seeing Xiao Dao’s expression of yearning, Yun Xuan grudgingly shook his head and inwardly whispered to himself, “Are Saint Masters that amazing? All they do is bully Class 2 Magical Beasts. You think that a Saint Master’s strength is enough for them to rampage around Magical Beast Mountain Range without fear?” Yun Xuan turned around to look at Jian Chen as he said, “Hey, Jian Chen, how many times have you entered Magical Beast Mountain Range? You’re so small; could it be that it’s only your first time?”

Jian Chen indifferently replied, “This should be my second time.” Although Jian Chen had entered the forest at Kargath Academy and killed magical beasts there in the past, that experience couldn’t possibly count formally. In addition, the magical beasts there had been raised by the academy, so Jian Chen simply ignored that experience..

Yun Xuan’s eyes lit up. He immediately showed interest and impatiently asked, “Then how many people were with you when you first entered? How powerful were they? Did you have any experts as formidable as Kendall?”

Jian Chen turned around to eye Yun Xuan. After hesitating for a bit, he said, “The first time I entered the Magical Beast Mountain Range, I was alone. However...”

Before Jian Chen had even finished speaking, he was interrupted by Yun Xuan, “What, you entered Magical Beast Mountain Range alone your first time? Wow, Jian Chen, I really look up to you.”

Jian Chen bitterly smiled and replied, “Yun Xuan, there’s no need to speak so loudly. When I had entered Magical Beast Mountain Range alone my first trip, I had only wandered around the surrounding areas.”

Yun Xuan looked at Jian Chen with an expression of admiration and said, “Jian Chen, I really respect you, especially your courage. You are really bold; could it be that you didn’t know that even the surrounding areas of Magical Beast Mountain Range are extremely dangerous? Encountering a Class 1 Magical Beast is fine; if you can’t beat it, there’s still a chance to flee. But if you meet a Class 2 Magical Beast, then your young life would be finished on the spot.” Yun Xuan patted his chest and he said with a trace of lingering fear, “However, a youngster like you was extremely fortunate to not have met such magical beasts. Otherwise, you most likely would’ve been doomed.”

“That’s right, Jian Chen. From now, you mustn’t come to the Magical Beast Mountain Range alone. Although our journey so far has been very tranquil, you definitely cannot underestimate the Magical Beast Forest just because of that.” Xiao Dao said solemnly, his expression serious.

Jian Chen bitterly smiled at the two's words and replied, "Alright, I understand. For now, let's just go back to watching Captain's fight with Black Tiger. Watching this scene is really beneficial for you guys. You can at least learn some battle patterns; they would be pretty useful later on."

Kabolds stood by Jian Chen's side, his shocked gaze locked onto Jian Chen. He surveyed Jian Chen's body up and down a few times, and his eyes flashed brightly with an expression of indefinite bewilderment. However, he didn't say a word, and quietly stood there, motionless and silent.

Hearing Jian Chen's words, Xiao Dao and Yun Xuan really did stop talking, and returned their attention to the fight and concentrated on what was happening in front of them.

Kendall and Deere continued to fight the Black Tiger for about the same amount of time it took for a cup of tea to be made. While the entire body of the Black Tiger was filled with wounds and blood, the combatants had finally brought out the true extent of the tiger's ferocity. With its life on the line, the Black Tiger's strength didn't falter at all and began to dodge the moves of the humans nimbly. With each dodge, it tried to strike back at Kendall and Deere.

Chapter 113: A Reveal Of Strength

“Ha!” Kendall shouted. The large axe made of his Saint Force swung behind him in a motion to chop off the head of the Black Tiger.

The Black Tiger dodged the battle axe by leaping into the air toward Kendall. Extending its jaws, the Black Tiger prepared to bite down onto him.

Immediately bringing back the battle axe, Kendall brought his Saint Weapon up to defend himself, allowing the Black Tiger to make contact with that instead. The sharp fangs of the Black Tiger made contact with the hardened weapon with a crunching sound. The force of the impact was so strong that Kendall couldn't help but stagger back a few steps as trail marks were left on the ground.

Not too long after, the paws of the Black Tiger landed on the ground. Before Kendall could regain his composure, the sharp claws of the tiger slashed at Kendall's chest.

Kendall became alarmed at the speed of the claws. With his axe being bitten and held down by the tiger, it was useless in this case. At this crucial moment, Kendall sucked in a deep breath and readied his body. At the same time, the Black Tiger's sharp claws slashed across his chest with a cold ripping sound as his clothes were ripped apart. Along with his clothes, Kendall's blood splattered into the air as the claws made contact.

This time, although Captain Kendall had taken the claws to his

chest head on since there wasn't enough time to dodge, it was only a superficial wound. He had been worried that the claws would have brought out a larger amount of damage, but this didn't seem to be the case.

Just as the Black Tiger raked its claws across Kendall's chest, a large broadsword chopped down onto the tiger's back with a ferocious amount of force. As the sword met the tiger's back, a large wound could be seen, but thanks to the resilience of the tiger, the wound was only the size of a palm in length.

As he watched the fight with the Black Tiger, Jian Chen shook his head helplessly. In his eyes, whether it was Kendall or Deere, neither of the two had shown their superiority with their weapons. Just looking at how they held the weapon, it was almost as if they didn't know how to use them. They had swung wildly without any sort of form or discipline.

It was Deere who had annoyed Jian Chen the most. Every single weapon had its own characteristics and special pattern of attack. Deere didn't know how to use a sword at all, so the sword in his hand wasn't able to show off its true power. Deere had even unexpectedly at times used the sword like a knife and recklessly chopped at his enemy.

As the battle continued, Captain Kendall and Deere had accumulated a few tiny wounds. At the same time, the Black Tiger suddenly faced the skies and released a roar that shook the heavens, destroying the silent atmosphere of the Magical Beast Mountain Range. Right after the shout, the Black Tiger suddenly released another few strikes before dodging both fighters and

turning around to run away.

“Careful, it wants to run.”

“Block it, for the love of everything don’t let it run away!”

Standing where the Black Tiger was attempting to run away to was Chang Ning Feng. Seeing the incoming magical beast, the glint in his eyes never stopped as he brought out his sword in front of him. With a large amount of Saint Force focused into his sword, he stabbed at the Black Tiger. At such a crucial moment like this, he had to make sure he focused everything on this one strike in order to avoid a long and drawn out battle.

While Chang Ning Feng moved to initiate combat, the other mercenaries weren’t idle. Kendall and Deere quickly ran forward to attack the Black Tiger from behind.

“Hou!” The Black Tiger emitted another deep growl as it lashed out with its claws once more. Its front paws smashed into Chang Ning Feng’s sword, causing it to shake from the strong force. Afterward, the Black Tiger opened its mouth wide and snapped at Chang Ning Feng.

Chang Ning Feng retreated backward while his sword went up ready to parry. Instead, he stabbed at the incoming bite.

“Ding!”

Although the sword did not penetrate the Black Tiger's mouth, it had swiped against the fangs of the beast as it reared its head backward. Biting down on the sword, the tiger had prevented Chang Ning Feng from pulling his sword out and fighting with it.

“Bastard, go die!”

At this moment, a loud sound came from behind the Black Tiger. It was Captain Kendall who had quickly approached it from behind with his large axe raised high into the air, emitting a loud sound as it chopped down onto the tiger's back. At the same time, Deere and a few other Saints began to approach the tiger from Chang Ning Feng's side and tried to obstruct the Black Tiger.

The Black Tiger released its hold on the sword as it turned to face Captain Kendall behind it with his axe raised. Dodging his axe swiftly, the Black Tiger did not manage to come out unscathed as the axe clipped its body and cut away a patch of fur.

“Aooo!”

The Black Tiger let out a pain filled roar as it turned around and sped off in the opposite direction. However just as it began to run, Jian Chen and the others saw that it was heading toward them, leaving them no choice but to take part in the fight.

Seeing the direction the Black Tiger was going, Xiao Dao and Yun Xuan's face changed drastically as they cried out in shock and turned toward the side to escape from it. Kabolds was the first to avoid the Black Tiger with an extremely fast speed, running far

away. Soon, it was only Jian Chen who stood his ground by himself without a single trace of fear on his face.

“Jian Chen, dodge quickly!” Kendall yelled out before dashing forward in an attempt to block off the Black Tiger from its path. However even with his Saint Master strength, his speed wasn’t enough to catch up with the Class 2 Magical Beast.

Seeing Jian Chen block its path, the Black Tiger’s eyes grew crimson as it released another roar. Quickly afterward, it increased its speed toward Jian Chen.

Seeing how Jian Chen stood his ground without any consideration of moving, the members of the Flame Mercenaries could only cry out in regret as they watched the scene unfold before them.

In regards to Jian Chen’s strength, everyone had only thought that he had the strength of a Saint. If a Great Saint had difficulties fighting this Black Tiger, then a Saint would definitely have no chance of resisting it. Even though the Black Tiger had already sustained plenty of wounds, the serious state it was in had aroused its ferocious nature. Its fighting strength hadn’t taken a decrease in intensity, instead, it had only grown stronger.

Seeing the Black Tiger pounce toward him, Jian Chen’s previously dull expression suddenly flashed with a cold light. His two fingers wide and 1.33 meter long silver Light Wind Sword abruptly appeared in his right hand. The only thing that could be seen was a silver light flashing in front of the Black Tiger. At the same time, Jian Chen’s body also whirled around, leaning toward

the side, about one step away from where he had previously been standing.

“Peng!”

The Black Tiger’s enormous and cumbersome body heavily fell to the ground where Jian Chen originally had stood. Its body showed no signs of movement at all. The next instant, crimson blood began to rush out of the Black Tiger’s neck, and gradually pour over the uneven ground, spreading in all directions.

Just as he was swiftly charging forward, Captain Kendall’s advancement was abruptly halted. He stared blankly at the Black Tiger that was now motionless on the ground. Kendall quietly stood in his tracks as he looked at Jian Chen, who stood there with an unchanged expression. Kendall’s eyes were filled with astonishment and incredulity; he had just seen an unimaginably fast, blurred figure of a sword flash before the Black Tiger’s eyes at an insane speed. Right after, the Black Tiger had collapsed to the ground, completely still.

Captain Kendall’s gaze finally fell onto the two fingers wide silver sword in Jian Chen’s hand. He noticed that there wasn’t a single trace of blood dirtying the glossy and dazzling blade. Yet it was because of this that Kendall felt even more shocked. In the short instant he looked at Jian Chen, his gaze changed countless times: from doubt to amazement, from disbelief to shock, the emotions flickering through his eyes one after another.

At that moment, the remaining five Saints finally rushed over. They hadn’t yet discovered that the Black Tiger was already dead.

The five of them charged forward and surrounded the Black Tiger, and they immediately began to strike toward the Black Tiger's body with their Saint Weapons in their hands.

“This magical beast has already died. Everyone, there's no need to fight it anymore.”

Just as the five mercenaries were about to pierce the Black Tiger's body, Captain Kendall's slightly trembling voice rang out.

Hearing this, the five Great Saints all had blank looks on their faces. The Saint that had just struck downward had also forcibly stopped his movement midair. Immediately afterward, the five people's gazes all shifted in unison to the Black Tiger's body that had fallen before them, closely inspecting it.

Only now did the five people clearly see that there was fresh blood violently spurting out of the Black Tiger's neck. The Black Tiger's red eyes that had originally held a fierce and terrible glint had now become spiritless voids.

“Strange, how did this Black Tiger die? Wasn't it jumping around healthy and alive just a second ago? How did it suddenly die?” Hu Po asked in confusion.

Hearing this, the remaining four Great Saints all glanced at each other with doubtful expressions.

Captain Kendall stared long and hard at Jian Chen and said,

“This Black Tiger was killed by Jian Chen.”

“What, Jian Chen killed it? Captain, are you serious?” Hearing Captain Kendall’s words, Xiao Dao jumped up, and one could tell from his expression that he wasn’t quite convinced.

Xiao Dao wasn’t the only one having difficulty accepting this; everyone in the Raging Flames Mercenary Group had expressions of disbelief on their faces after hearing those words.

Chapter 114: Zhou Mercenaries

Everyone in the Flame mercenaries had thought that Jian Chen's strength was of the Saint level. Even his mercenary badge had declared him to be a D ranked mercenary, and the most important factor was that Jian Chen was so young as well. On the Tian Yuan Continent, if a 20 year old was able to become a Saint, then their strength was bright and their potential was unimaginable. For a seemingly 20 year old like Jian Chen who was capable of killing a Class 2 Magical Beast, even if it was injured, no one in the proximity would have been able to believe it if they hadn't seen it. However, aside from Captain Kendall, no one saw the faint hazy outline of the sword, or how Jian Chen had killed the Black Tiger.

Kendall's eyes wavered on the slender sword of Jian Chen's for a moment before growing calm once more and laughed, "If you guys don't believe it, then go ask Jian Chen yourself.". There was a smile on his face as he said this, but how could he not be happy? There was one more expert in his group now.

Xiao Dao was the first to give in. Running up to Jian Chen while looking at him from up to down, his eyes finally settled onto the blood free Light Wind Sword, "Jian Chen, please tell me honestly, did you kill the Black Tiger?"

Seeing the look of disbelief on Xiao Dao's face, Jian Chen nodded his head and said, "That's correct, I killed it." From the very beginning, Jian Chen hadn't planned on hiding his strength with lies, so he was very straightforward and honest with Xiao Dao.

"Wow, no way!" Xiao Dao's eyes widened in surprise. In disbelief,

Xiao Dao looked at the calm Jian Chen and spoke, “This fierce Class 2 Magical Beast was really killed by you? How did you do that and how come I didn’t see how you did it?”

Hearing Xiao Dao ask these questions, everyone but Kendall stared at Jian Chen attentively. Whatever method Jian Chen had used to kill the Class 2 Magical Beast, it was natural for them all to be curious. To them, all they saw was Jian Chen suddenly move to the side while using his thin and slender sword in a strange way to kill the Black Tiger, but none of them had figured out how or what method was used.

In the midst of everyone, there was only one person who looked at Jian Chen differently. It was Kabolds who stared at Jian Chen in a way that looked as if to say to himself, “It was as just as I thought”

Jian Chen let a grim smile take hold of his lips as he raised his Light Wind Sword. “I used my Saint Weapon to kill the beast, if you guys didn’t see it, it’s because my movements were too fast to catch.”

Hearing what Jian Chen said, Captain Kendall thought back to the flash of silver he had just seen and couldn’t help but be afraid. This was because he had no choice but to admit that Jian Chen’s sword was just far too quick and he could only see the faint afterimage of the sword. At this moment, Capital Kendall couldn’t help but think, if he were to battle an opponent who possessed such speed, would he be able to dodge their attacks?

Chang Ning Feng looked at the corpse of the Black Tiger below

and kicked it. The body of the Black Tiger flipped over by his kick before he bent down to grab the Black Tiger's head to reveal the cut on its neck

As everyone saw the fatal blow on the Black Tigers neck, even Captain Kendall couldn't help but take in a sharp breath because the wound was way too deep. Just looking at the neck one could see that two thirds of it had been completely cut off. Only one third of the skin was attached to the rest of the body making it seem as if the head of the Black Tiger was about to snap off at any moment.

What was even more unimaginable was that the Black Tiger had clearly leapt toward him so fast that it looked as if it was gliding. For Jian Chen to accurately deliver a fatal blow to its throat, this was an act of skill no one else in the group could match.

Deere took in a deep breath of air to calm his beating heart as he looked at Jian Chen. With a smile, he said, "Jian Chen, before we had only thought that you were a Saint, but it seems like your strength was far beyond our imagination. You really did keep us in the dark."

Hu Po walked on over to Jian Chen and extended his hand onto Jian Chen's shoulder, "Jian Chen, you are far too mean! Be honest with me. How strong are you? You can't be even more amazing than our captain, right?"

Hearing what Hu Po said, Jian Chen could only laugh helplessly, "Brother Hu Po, I'm nowhere as amazing as you say. My strength isn't too far away from yours, I am a Middle Great Saint."

“That’s not right, how could a Middle Great Saint kill a Class 2 Magical Beast so easily?” Hu Po said with surprise, but instead of asking Jian Chen, he turned around to talk to everyone else, “First, let’s take care of the body of the Black Tiger before we continue talking about this.”

Even as they obeyed Hu Po’s command, everyone was still doubtful. However, they didn’t say anything and started to prepare the Black Tiger.

“This Black Tiger was quite amazing. Even though it had the strength of a Class 2 Magical Beast, it was faster than a Class 3 Magical Beast. After taking the Monster Core, put the rest of the body within a Space Belt so we can sell it for a great amount of money.” Kendall said.

On the Tian Yuan Continent, with regards to the type of meat consumed, other than regular beef, most of them came from magical beasts. Magical Beast meat was not only tender, but it even smelled good too. Another good benefit was that eating it would also help reinforce the body, thus Magical Beast meat were considered a hot selling item. When it came to high leveled magical beasts, the supply could never meet the demand.

Jian Chen absorbed the Light Wind Sword back into his body and watched as the mercenaries stored away the body of the Black Tiger. He didn’t care that it was a Class 2 Magical Beast since he could easily kill a Class 3 Magical Beast at any time. In the hands of Jian Chen, the magical beasts had no way of escaping The Flame Mercenaries were different, they had only 1 Saint Master, even

with their strengths combined, they couldn't be compared to Jian Chen. Killing a Peak Class 2 Magical Beast had been difficult for them, and if it weren't for the fact that Jian Chen had blocked the Black Tiger, they wouldn't have been able to catch up to it. These magical beasts could be said to be like fish in water; different from humans, their movements wouldn't be restricted by the lush forest environment.

Jian Chen's ears trembled once more and he turned his head to the side. As his eyes landed on top of a few bushes that started to shake violently, a group of 20 mercenaries wearing steel helmets and full body armor walked into their line of sight.

Just as the fully armed mercenaries walked into their sights, everyone in the Flame Mercenaries immediately stopped what they were doing and watched the 20 mercenaries with a tense expression.

The leader of the 20 mercenaries looked at the Flame Mercenaries with a cold glare and then at the halfway stored Black Tiger. With a wave of his hands, he barked out, "Onward!", commanding the rest of the mercenaries to walk past the Flame Mercenaries without looking back before finally melting out of sight. In the group's eyes, the Flame Mercenaries weren't even worth a glance.

"Those were the Zhou Mercenaries, I didn't think we'd come across them here." After the iron clad mercenaries left, Hu Po let out a breath of air.

"Brother Hu Po, are the Zhou Mercenaries that well known?"

Jian Chen asked.

Hu Po nodded his head in response, “While the Zhou Mercenaries aren’t considered the strongest in Wake City, the residents of Wake City will say that the Zhou Mercenaries are for sure within the top 10. Their group has around 50 people with their leader at the Peak Saint Master level. Under his direct command are 6 Middle Saint Masters with around 20 Great Saints. Their strength is so enormous that our Flame Mercenaries definitely cannot provoke them. Plus, the Zhou Mercenaries have the backing of one of the strongest clans in Wake City – the Zhou Clan. With this, there aren’t many in Wake City that could challenge them.”

“Oh!” Jian Chen looked to where the Zhou Mercenaries disappeared to, their image not disappearing from his mind.

“Jian Chen, if you come across such a person or group in the Magical Beast Mountain Range in the future, please be careful. The Magical Beast Mountain Range is a common place for people to be killed over their items; there are even some people who are mercenaries, but their actions place them on the same level as a bandit.” Kendall warned Jian Chen with a serious and grave face.

Seeing how serious Kendall was, Jian Chen nodded his head, “I’ll be careful.”

After that, the Black Tiger’s corpse had been properly stored within a Space Belt. “Right now we are in an area where Class 2 Magical Beasts roam, any deeper and Class 3 Magical Beasts will be found. So for our sake, let’s start to wander around here.”

Soon after, Kendall and Deere began to address their wounds which were thankfully not very deep and wouldn't affect their fighting strength by too much. With a little preparation, the two were ready to get back on the road while staying vigilant of their surroundings.

After traveling a short distance, Jian Chen had detected the footprints of another magical beast, but this time it was just like the magical beast before the Black Tiger. This magical beast was using the cover of the forest to hide 10 meters away from the mercenaries before silently retreating.

Jian Chen's eyebrows furrowed together as he tried to understand just what was happening. On the road, aside from killing that one Class 2 Magical Beast Black Tiger, he had detected the presence of at least 10 different magical beasts, but none of them had been like the Black Tiger and attacked them.

"Could it be that it's because there are too many people that the magical beasts are afraid to attack us?" Jian Chen asked himself. However, this thought was immediately dismissed for it made no sense at all.

Chapter 115: A Generous Profit

Jian Chen stared at the mercenaries walking in front of him when a flash of realization came, “Of course, it’s intimidation! This has to be due to the murderous air we’re emitting.” Jian Chen’s eyes sparkled as he came to this realization. After seeing so many magical beasts retreat without a fight from this group, it had, after all, been because the entire group was releasing an intimidating amount of killing intent into the air around them.

Although the magical beasts lacked wisdom, they were born with superior genetics that granted them formidable instincts. The moment they sensed an opponent they wouldn’t be able to beat their primal instincts would urge them to immediately cower and run away.

Thinking about this, Jian Chen opened his mouth, “One moment please, everyone suppress your killing intent. Otherwise, we’ll just continue about this path without seeing another magical beast.”

Kendall turned his head in the manner of a fox as he asked, “Jian Chen, is that useful?”

“Whether it’s useful or not will be known after everyone tries it for themselves.” Jian Chen didn’t want to bother to explain.

Hearing what Jian Chen had said, Kabolds began to think to himself for a moment as the glint in his eye grew brighter and brighter. “Everyone should believe in Jian Chen for now, these past few times we entered the Magical Beast Forest we would

always come across only a few Class 1 Magical Beasts. I had always found this to be strange, but until now, I hadn't an answer for it, so we can't outrule what Jian Chen has said here."

"So even Kabolds would say something like this, then let's follow Jian Chen's suggestion," said the elder of the Zhou twins.

Kabolds had only the strength of a Saint, but he was extremely smart. His past suggestions had been of great benefit to the Flame Mercenaries before, so everyone would readily agree with what he said.

After a while, everyone had slowly started to suppress their killing intent to the point where not even a small amount could be felt leaking out.

Just as everyone finished suppressing their killing intent, they barely traveled 3 kilometers, before a Class 1 Magical Beast appeared. This made every single member of the Flame Mercenaries happy at the new change of events. Although a Class 1 Monster Core was worth less than a Class 2 Monster Core, killing a Class 1 Magical Beast was an easy task. As long as there were Class 1 Magical Beasts, the road ahead of them would be filled with generous profit.

"Haha, so we finally came across a Class 1 Magical Beast. Captain Kendall, please allow me, Kabolds and Yun Xuan to deal with this one." Xiao Dao cried out in joy as a small dagger appeared in his hand. Striking at the magical beast, Kabolds and Yun Xuan followed behind quickly.

Seeing the small knife in Xiao Dao's hand, Jian Chen shook his head in exasperation. No wonder he was called [Xiao Dao](#), it was because his Saint Weapon had been a tiny blade. Turning his gaze over to Kabolds and Yun Xuan, both wielded a two-handed sword.

Xiao Dao means small knife

Xiao Dao and the other two began to engage the Class 1 Magical Beast in an intense fight since their strengths weren't all that different from the magical beast. After a while of the three fighting it at such a dangerously close distance, the cooperation of the three mercenaries finally killed the magical beast.

None of the Great Saints like Jian Chen had any desire to join in on the fight since all of them had fully believed that the three Saints would be able to be able to take care of the Class 1 Magical Beast.

Continuing onward, the group couldn't walk for long without coming across a few Class 1 and even some Class 2 Magical Beasts. But this type of outcome had proved to everyone how Jian Chen's theory was true.

By nightfall, the group had found a place to rest in and prepared a big campfire. While eating the meat from a magical beast for dinner, they had begun to tidy up the profits they had earned today.

Sitting in front of the campfire was Captain Kendall who watched the flames flicker and dance with a smile as a pile of

monster cores sat next to him.

“Everyone, right now let’s talk about today’s harvest.” Kendall laughed as he looked around himself. “Today, we earned a total of 20 monster cores; 7 Class 2 Monster Cores and 13 Class 1 Monster Cores, making our profits exceed far more than in the past.” At the last few words, Kendall had practically yelled it out, making it clear that he was beyond excited.

“Haha, we have to thank Jian Chen for this. If it weren’t for his advice, we wouldn’t have come across even a single Class 1 Magical Beast.” Hu Po laughed as he took a drink of his wine.

Chang Ning Feng laughed as well, “Hu Po is right, brother Jian Chen’s contributions for today’s profit cannot go unnoticed. From the 7 Class 2 Magical Beasts, Jian Chen had killed 3 of them by himself! Brother Jian Chen, come! Take a drink!” Chang Ning Feng held out his wine gourd towards him.

Jian Chen took the gourd from Chang Ning Feng and took a drink joyously. “Don’t say things like this, when we talk about contributions, everyone in this group had contributed. What can be said for sure however is that this time’s trip in the Magical Beast Mountain Range has given the group a profit never seen before.”

“Haha, that’s correct. With an expert like brother Jian Chen here, our Flame Mercenaries has gotten a harvest far richer than anything else.” Kendall spoke merrily. “Seeing this pile of monster cores here makes me feel as if I am one step closer to my dream.”

“Captain, what is your dream?” Xiao Dao asked curiously.

“My dream is for our Flame Mercenaries to be the number one mercenary group on the Tian Yuan Continent!” Captain Kendall roared happily as he said, “This is my biggest dream!”

Hearing this, everyone began to laugh with him.

“The number one mercenary group on the Tian Yuan Continent, Kendall, your dream will be impossible to accomplish.” Hu Po slapped Kendall on his back in a joking way.

“That’s right, what Hu Po said is right. Kendall, your dream is like something from a fantasy. Following what you say, then I desire to be the strongest expert in the Tian Yuan Continent.” Deere laughed.

“Hahaha, the number one expert on the continent, you dream highly...”

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Jian Chen sat by the fire and smiled as he watched everyone gossip among themselves. Every so often, he would laugh with everyone, and at this moment within his heart, he was completely content for the first time in a long time. Although everyone was joking around with each other, but with each word they spoke to one another revealed the deep bonds of friendships between them all and even infected Jian Chen with it.

After the food was eaten and the wine exhausted, everyone began to sprinkle some powder around themselves and the campsite to prevent their Qi from escaping and being detected by the surrounding magical beasts. Then, they extinguished the camp fire and dug into their tents to rest for the night.

Jian Chen carelessly reclined within his own tent as he thought about a few things from the day. Right now in his hand were 2 Class 4 Monster Cores, but those were the only monster cores he had left. Even if he wanted to cultivate, he had no desire to use the Class 4 Monster Cores. When he would become a Saint Master, then he would use the Class 4 Monster Cores to cultivate.

“It looks like tomorrow I should encourage Captain Kendall to go hunting for Class 3 Magical Beasts. If I can’t get at least 3 Class 3 Monster Cores every day, then I won’t be able to cultivate.” Jian Chen thought to himself.

“With my strength, I should be able to kill any Class 3 Magical Beasts with ease, and with Captain Kendall and the group’s cooperation, then that means at least 2 Class 3 Magical Beasts can be fought simultaneously. As long as we don’t bump into 4 Class 3 Magical Beasts at the same time, then there won’t be any danger.”

“En, the Flame Mercenaries should probably be able to stay in the Magical Beast Mountain Range for a month or so. Since the group is quite decent, I should try my best to help procure some monster cores for them during this time. A month after, I’ll leave the group and put all my efforts in strengthening myself. I’ll treat this month as a break, after all, the anti-venom genes within my body from the

Silver Striped Golden Snake haven't fully been incorporated into my bloodstream yet. While waiting for this, I need to focus on not sustaining any injuries otherwise the blood with the anti-venom genes will flow away. If I can prevent that, then my bloodstream will have a constant source of anti-venom genes flowing through it, granting me the Thousand Immunity. By that point, I'll never be able to be poisoned by anyone else as long as it doesn't reach the levels of a Silver Striped Golden Snake in toxicity. “

Jian Chen lay back onto the ground of his tent as countless thoughts went through his head. Only after some time did he begin to calm himself and listen to his surroundings. After confirming it was safe, he began to sit cross-legged and absorb the World Essence in the air to cultivate.

Despite the fact that absorbing the World Essence would only give him 1% of what he should normally get, Jian Chen had no desire to sleep or give up any chance to increase his own strength.

Chapter 116: Magical Horned Boar

The morning came as the sky grew brighter. Jian Chen who was cultivating the World Essence finally opened his eyes. Feeling his internal Saint Force stay the same size instead of growing, Jian Chen could only sigh. Although his current cultivation rate for the World Essence was far faster than before, whenever he cultivated, the World Essence had practically been devoured by the two glows in his dantian. So his true cultivation rate could practically be ignored.

Walking out of his tent, Jian Chen stood in the fresh morning atmosphere with his head raised up high to look at the tree branches overhead. In this morning hour, the air was filled with mist and it was quite dim out as the sun was still rising from the east.

Hearing the faint snoring sounds coming from the other tents, Jian Chen shook his head in disappointment. With his strong sense of hearing, Jian Chen could detect that every single mercenary was fast asleep, and not a single one of them were cultivating.

“Ai, how lazy. How do they think they could increase their strength? On the road of cultivation, while talent is very important, hard work is just as important as talent. Even if a man has the talent, if he does not work hard to cultivate, then his achievements will be no better than a man with no talent but is hardworking.” Jian Chen thought to himself.

After walking into the forest to get a tree branch, Jian Chen restarted the fire and fashioned out a simple grill to cook a few

pieces of magical beast meat.

Perhaps it was the outside movement that had awoken Kendall but his head popped out from his tent to stare at Jian Chen who was roasting meat, “Jian Chen, why is it you’re up so early?” He laughed.

Without even turning around in response, Jian Chen said, “The sky is getting bright, so its no longer that early.”

Captain Kendall looked up at the brightening sky and laughed. Without saying anything, he walked out from his tent and sat down next to Jian Chen by the fire.

Just as Captain Kendall walked out of his tent, the other members of the group were awakened by the noise as well. Walking out of their tents, they proceeded to pack up and store everything into their Space Belts as they began to gather around the campfire. Even Hu Po approached the campfire with a gourd of wine as he continued to drink from it.

Seeing everyone up and at the campfire, Jian Chen looked at Kendall and said, “Captain Kendall, what do you plan to do next for our course of action?”

“The next thing we should do is to stay around this area for a while and continue to hunt down Class 1 and 2 Magical Beasts. Let’s continue this for a few days at the Magical Beast Mountain Range so that we can build up a nice amount of profit before leaving.” Kendall said plainly.

Hearing this, Jian Chen went silent for a moment before opening his mouth to ask, “Captain Kendall, I have a suggestion, would you please listen to it?”

Kendall’s eyes lingered on Jian Chen as he laughed and said, “Jian Chen, whatever suggestion you have, say it. There’s no need to think twice about what you’re about to say. Although you’ve joined our Flame Mercenaries only recently, everyone here is still your brother, so whatever you say won’t be taken as an insult.”

“I suggest that we go a bit deeper, and directly kill Class 3 Magical Beasts.” Jian Chen levelly looked at Kendall.

“What, kill Class 3 Magical Beasts? Jian Chen, you’ve gone crazy. A peak level Class 2 Magical Beast was already so difficult to kill, let alone a Class 3 Magical Beast.” Xiao Dao exclaimed in shock. Although the Flame Mercenaries now had the middle Great Saint, Jian Chen, in Xiao Dao’s eyes, killing a Class 3 Magical Beast with this amount of power was still difficult.

Hearing Jian Chen’s proposal, everyone’s eyebrows furrowed together. The Flame Mercenaries had 1 Primary Saint Master and 6 Great Saints, but the Magical Beast had an innate superiority over the humans who were of the same strength level of them. If a person didn’t have a Battle Skill or an attribute, then it would be practically impossible to kill a Magical Beast on the same level of strength as them. Even if they could, the price they would have to pay for doing so would be tremendous. On this Magical Beast Mountain Range where Class 3 Magical Beast roamed, if the Flame Mercenaries were to come across a Primary Class 3 Magical Beast,

then they would be able to kill it with some difficulty. However, if they were to come across a Peak Class 3 Magical Beast, then they would be have no chance at all.

After killing a Peak Class 2 Magical Beast, Captain Kendall and Chang Ning Feng had been injured. If it weren't for Jian Chen's intervention, then it wouldn't have been possible for them to capture and kill the Magical Beast.

So for that reason, Jian Chen's suggestion to kill a Class 3 magical Beast to the Flame Mercenaries was an attempt of suicide.

Kabolds looked at Jian Chen with a curious glint in his eye, "Jian Chen, to think that you are suggesting to go kill a Class 3 Magical Beast, then I presume that you have the ability to kill a Class 3 magical Beast?"

Hearing Kabolds, Jian Chen hesitated for a second before nodding his head. "As long as we don't come across 3 Class 3 Magical Beasts, I can safely say we won't be in mortal danger."

Everyone's eyes widened in astonishment. Doubt and disbelief clouded their eyes as they stared at Jian Chen.

"Jian Chen, so what you're saying is that as long as we don't come across 3 Class 3 Magical Beasts at the same time, then we won't be in any danger at all." Kendall said with a deep breath. If what Jian Chen said was true, then Kendall would want to bring Jian Chen with him to go kill some Class 3 Magical Beasts. After all, Class 3 Magical Beasts had a body and a Monster Core that were

far more valuable than a Class 2 Magical Beast.

“Jian Chen, do you really have enough strength to kill a Class 3 Magical Beast?” Deere asked to clarify. Although Jian Chen had killed a Peak Class 2 Magical Beast, but the Black Tiger had already been injured, so its strength was far different than a Class 3 Magical Beast in perfect condition.

“That’s right, Jian Chen, something like this can’t be randomly said and tried, otherwise you might throw away your life in the attempt.” Chang Ning Feng said with worry.

Jian Chen smiled at everyone, despite everyone’s reaction to this suggestion, Jian Chen wasn’t unhappy with them. After all, killing a Class 3 Magical Beast was a task far too difficult for the Flame Mercenaries. Regardless of whether they were careful or not, they would still sustain a few injuries.

“Everyone should believe me this time, if we really cannot beat a Class 3 Magical Beast, then we at least have enough strength to run away.” Jian Chen said with firm conviction.

Hearing this, everyone’s eyes gathered at the figure of Captain Kendall. Regarding such an important decision like this, it would be for the best for Captain Kendall to make the final decision.

Kendall took in a deep breath of air as he stared at Jian Chen. Seeing how Jian Chen seemed to have complete faith in himself, Kendall bit his lips and finally made a decision. “Then how about this, we’ll believe in what he says this time. Jian Chen, if you truly

do believe yourself, then I'll let you lead the group for a while. Whatever we do will be up to you to guide us, does anyone have any problems?" Kendall said to everyone else.

"I've no problems!"

"No problems here!"

"I don't have any problems here either!"

.....

Kendall's decision had quickly convinced everyone else without anyone having a disagreement. Jian Chen's face had a big smile on it as he said, "Then, since everyone has confidence in me, I will definitely make sure not to disappoint anyone. Let me plan a few things then." Jian Chen's voice stopped for a moment before saying, "Let me walk in the front while everyone else take the same positions. If we come across a Class 3 Magical Beast, then let me up first while everyone else surrounds it to prevent any other attacks. If any other magical beasts come, then you guys should attack those, but remember to take care of your own life, as long as you can stall the other magical beasts from attacking me, that'll be enough."

When they heard Jian Chen's plan, everyone looked at each other with a dubious look. They had felt extremely curious about this plan, to have a Middle Great Saint fight against a Class 3 Magical Beast by himself? This sort of plan was kind of unpleasant to hear since they all took a Class 3 Magical Beast seriously.

After eating breakfast, everyone finished packing up their things and headed for the deeper parts of the Magical Beast Mountain Range. This time however, the formation of the group was slightly different with Jian Chen walking by himself 10 meters ahead of the group who retained their original positions. Not a single member of the group emitted any murderous intent while traveling, causing some Class 1 Magical Beasts to be attracted to them. However, since they wanted to continue on their journey quickly, they didn't let Xiao Dao or the other Saints fight the magical beasts. Instead, the Class 1 Magical Beasts were given to the Great Saints to kill.

As the group continued to walk into the forest, the terrain grew more and more nasty as swamps greeted their eyes in every direction. All sorts of toxic plants and insects also came into their field of view, and sometimes, a man eating magical beast would come out of nowhere.

On the road, everyone was very attentive to their surroundings. While listening to the sounds underneath their feet, they were also cautiously looking around themselves. At this point, a few Class 2 Magical Beasts had attacked them, but they continued onward. The amount of Class 1 Magical Beasts began to lessen while they encountered a Class 2 Magical Beast every so often.

At that moment, the leading Jian Chen's ears twitched, and then he suddenly stopped in his tracks, raising a hand to signal the Flame Mercenaries behind him to stop as well.

Seeing Jian Chen's movement, everyone in the mercenary group

had stopped as well and nervously looked carefully at their surroundings. Although Jian Chen had repeated time after time that as long as 3 Class 3 Magical Beasts didn't attack them at the same time, then they would be in no danger at all, everyone was still extremely nervous. After all, they were up against a Class 3 Magical Beast this time instead of the normal Class 2 Magical Beasts. Although there was only one class apart from each other, the difference in strength between a Class 2 and a Class 3 Magical Beast was vast.

At that moment, the cry of a wild beast rang out from ahead of them. The grass around them violently swayed as a great, 2 meter tall magical beast appeared in the people's line of vision. This magical beast looked like a wild boar. It had a long nose, and the only thing different from a wild boar was the fact that it had fierce, inch-long, snow white teeth protruding from the corners of its mouth. It also had a single horn sprouting from its forehead.

Captain Kendall surveyed the magical beast in front of them. His expression turned grave as he said, "Magical Horned Boar! Jian Chen, be careful. That's a Class 3 Magical Horned Boar."

Jian Chen nodded his head as he stared impassively at the Magical Horned Boar. The silver glow of his Light Wind Sword gradually appeared in his right hand as it was enveloped by a hazy glow of light that covered the entire blade.

"We'll act as we had originally planned. Let me deal with this magical beast, you guys just keep yourselves safe." As soon as he said this, Jian Chen raised his sword and swiftly charged at the Magical Horned Boar.

Chapter 117: Fighting Strength That Causes Others To Quake In Fear

The Flame Mercenaries' eyes grew wide as they all watched Jian Chen charge at the Magical Horned Boar alone. Their gazes were all locked onto Jian Chen's figure that appeared neither tall nor sturdy. Everyone wanted to witness exactly how Jian Chen was going to kill the Class 3 Magical Horned Boar.

Captain Kendall had a serious expression on his face as he sent a powerful Saint Force rushing out from his right hand. A wide axe gradually materialized in his hands, which he grasped tightly as his fierce eyes staring unblinkingly at Jian Chen's frail looking body. As soon as Jian Chen was unable to resist the Class 3 Magical Beast's attacks, he'd charge to the front lines without any hesitation to save Jian Chen. Among this group, he was most likely the only person that could contend against the Magical Horned Boar, albeit with difficulty.

Jian Chen was like a monster as he whipped up fine winds with his swift charge toward the Magical Horned Boar in front of him. The Light Wind Sword in his hand became a silver glow, as if turning into a slim and spectacular flash of lightning that pierced toward the Magical Horned Boar's throat.

Seeing the silver light, the corners of the Magical Horned Boar's eyes flashed with a fierce glow, faintly expressing a dull look of concentration. It gave a low roar, and its heavy body quickly retreated. At the same time, it tried to turn its entire upper body to the side as it attempted to evade Jian Chen's sword coming at its throat.

Although the Magical Horned Boar had already tried its hardest to evade, its enormous body was really too cumbersome. In addition, speed was originally the Magical Horned Boar's weakness. There was no way it could dodge Jian Chen's blade that was as fast as lightning.

“Pu!”

The Light Wind Sword pierced deeply into the Magical Horned Boar's throat, instantly severing its life force. Immediately afterward, the Magical Horned Boar's entire body suddenly grew rigid. Its pair of large eyes gradually lost their feeling, and before it could even give a miserable cry, its entire body fell to the ground with a bang.

Jian Chen pulled out the bloody sword from the Magical Horned Boar's throat. As he casually moved it, all of the blood on the Light Wind Sword began to gradually flow downward. It slowly gathered at the point's end, before finally dripping onto the ground, drop by drop.

Absorbing the Light Wind Sword back into his body, Jian Chen revealed a satisfied smile on his face. After he had broke through to become a Middle Great Saint, his fighting strength was far better than when he was a Primary Great Saint. No matter if it was the speed of his Light Wind Sword was or the strength of the Sword Qi around, both had become even stronger than before. Right now killing a Class 3 Magical Beast was nothing more than a simple task.

Looking at the Class 3 Magical Horned Boar lying on the ground, Jian Chen indifferently said, “Captain Kendall, I’ll leave this Class 3 Magical Beast carcass for you to handle.”

Not a single sound could be heard from behind Jian Chen in response to his words. Sensing that there was something odd, Jian Chen turned around, only to see that all of the Flame Mercenaries were currently looking at the Magical Horned Boar on the ground blankly with round eyes. All of them had astonished looks of disbelief.

Seeing everyone’s brilliant expression, Jian Chen shook his head with a bitter smile. To the Flame Mercenaries, a Class 3 Magical Beast was something far beyond their strength. They couldn’t kill it in one blow, and if they were hit with one blow, then that would be the end for them. To the mercenaries whose strength was weaker than a Class 3 Magical Beast, this display of strength shocked them to their core.

The people were in a shocked daze for quite a while. Captain Kendall was the first to regain his senses. He exhaled deeply to slowly suppress his shock, and he looked at Jian Chen with a complicated look as he said, “Jian Chen, your strength is too abnormal. Even a Class 3 Magical Beast was utterly unable to stand up against you; you were able to kill it as easy as pie. This is a Class 3 Magical Beast you know.”

Soon afterward, everyone was gradually brought back to their senses as they looked at Jian Chen with a complicated look of shock and disbelief.

Chang Ning Feng let loose a long breath of air and said, “Ai, your strength is unbelievable. This was a Class 3 Magical Beast, but I’m having trouble thinking that this was nothing more than a Class 1 Magical Beast from how well you handled it.”

Hearing this, everyone simultaneously nodded their heads as Deere said, “Jian Chen, is your strength really at Middle Great Saint? Seeing how easily you killed this Class 3 magical Beast, I’m having a hard time believing you’re not at the Great Saint Master level yet.” Deere looked at Jian Chen with a complex stare mixed in with a look of envy. After all, Jian Chen was much younger than him, so who wouldn’t be envious of his strength?

Kabolds hesitated for a bit before opening his mouth to say, “Jian Chen, could it be that what you used just now was a high level battle skill? I was completely unable to tell when exactly your sword had pierced the Magical Horned Boar’s throat.”

“That’s right, I didn’t see it clearly. Actually, I couldn’t even see a hint of a shadow.” Hu Po added in an extremely depressed tone.

Hearing this, Jian Chen smiled and said, “It can’t really be said to be a battle skill. My swordplay is just on the faster side.”

“It was so fast that we couldn’t even see it clearly. That speed is a bit too terrifying.” Deere said in a low voice.

Kendall walked up to the body of the Magical Horned Boar and said, “Okay, let’s not talk about this for now. Everyone come help me take care of the body.”

Soon after, everyone walked up to the body of the Magical Horned Boar as Xiao Dao took out his Saint Weapon which was a small dagger. Fiercely cutting into the stomach of the Magical Horned Boar, he attempted to extract the Monster Core, however, the moment he had stabbed into the boar's stomach, the blade was only capable of making a small finger sized hole in it.

Although the defense of the Magical Horned Boar wasn't all that outstanding, it was still a Class 3 magical Beast. Their leathery skin was still well known, so with Xiao Dao's Saint level strength, if he wanted to cut into the stomach of the Magical Horned Boar, he would have to expend a great amount of effort in order to make a larger cut through the skin.

Seeing how Xiao Dao could only cut a small finger sized hole in the stomach of the Magical Horned Boar, Deere shook his head and walked up beside Xiao Dao. "Xiao Dao, let me give it a try." A great amount of Saint Force was concentrated around his right arm as a two handed sword appeared in his palm.

"The leather skin of this Class 3 Magical Beast is quite tough, I've learned a lot today." Xiao Dao cursed as he obediently stood aside for Deere.

Soon after, Deere used his two handed sword to cut open the belly of the boar and then extracting the bloody Class 3 Monster Core from within. Wiping it clean of blood, he walked up to Jian Chen and Kendall with some hesitation before offering it up to Jian Chen. "Brother Jian Chen, this Class 3 Magical Horned Boar was killed by you, so therefore, the monster core should go to

you...”

Not waiting for Deere to finish his sentence, Jian Chen cut him off saying, “Uncle Deere, in accordance to the group rules, this monster core should be given to Captain Kendall to decide, and in the end everyone will give their agreement.”

“This, this probably isn’t the best thing to do.” Deere looked hesitant.

“There’s nothing wrong with that, Uncle Deere, bring the monster core to Captain Kendall to decide.” Jian Chen said firmly without any room for Deere to argue against.

“Fine then.” Deere had no choice but to hand the monster core over to Captain Kendall.

Kendall gazed deeply at Jian Chen, but did not shirk away. Instead, he reached his hand out to accept the Class 3 Monster Core and said, “In that case, I’ll take care of this monster core for now. Once we leave Magical Beast Mountain Range, I’ll distribute all the profits based on contribution.”

Afterward, the group of people allocated one person’s Space Belt to store the Magical Horned Boar’s carcass, and then they continued their journey. A Class 3 Magical Beast’s body could be sold for quite a bit of money, so the Flame Mercenaries obviously wouldn’t let this opportunity slip past them.

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Time quickly passed. Unknowingly, the group had already stayed in the Magical Beast Mountain Range for 10 days. These 10 days, were definitely the happiest and most enjoyable moments for the Flame Mercenaries. That was because during this period, aside from the first day, the remaining days were filled with Jian Chen taking the lead to hunt Class 3 Magical Beasts in the mountain range. Because Jian Chen's actual combat strength had long surpassed a Saint Master's, he had absolutely no difficulty killing the Class 3 Magical Beasts. Moreover, ever since his strength had reached the mid Great Saint level, Jian Chen hadn't once received an injury from fighting a Class 3 Magical Beast at close range.

During this period of time, the Flame Mercenaries had long since stopped wondering about how strange the powerful strength Jian Chen displayed was. As Jian Chen revealed more and more of his strength, his position in the Flame Mercenary Group continued to rise. Right now, almost everyone, including Captain Kendall, either held extreme respect for him, or was incomparably polite. This was because in 10 days, Jian Chen had brought about a great amount of profit for the Flame Mercenaries. In these past few days, Jian Chen had killed over 100 Class 3 Magical Beasts by himself and 300 Class 2 Magical Beasts while the Flame Mercenaries did not kill as many by themselves. They had simply stood behind Jian Chen as he killed the magical beasts and extracted the monster cores from the magical beast's corpses. Despite this, no one in the group had complained about the unfairness, instead, they thought of this to be quite joyful. To them, this was as simple as picking up money.

By nightfall, the full moon was suspended overhead in the night

sky and illuminated the land below in its white glow. Within one of the larger areas of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, a large bonfire lit up the night as the embers from the fire flickered and danced into the sky.

10 people wearing the fur of magical beasts sat around the bonfire, these relaxed figures were the Flame Mercenaries.

“These past days we have harvested 125 Class 3 Monster Cores, 364 Class 2 Monster Cores, and not even 30 Class 1 Monster Cores. Other than that, we also have a few Class 3 Magical Beast corpses.” Kendall proclaimed as he examined the items the group had taken.

Hearing Kendall’s exclamation, everyone let loose an extremely happy smile. Because of this type of harvest, everyone was extremely satisfied. However, everyone knew that if they didn’t have the help of Jian Chen, they wouldn’t even have a single Class 3 Monster Core. After all, killing one Class 3 Magical Beast was already too difficult for them, and killing even half the amount of Class 2 Magical Beasts would have been impossible to do by themselves.

Chapter 118: Class 5 Cub

“After 10 days of constant hunting, I’m sure everyone is tired. Plus, the rations we have in our Space Belts are definitely almost all gone, so tomorrow morning, let’s go back to Wake City and rest there. Does anyone else object?” Kendall asked.

Everyone looked at Jian Chen as Deere asked, “Jian Chen, why don’t you make this decision?”

Jian Chen poked at the campfire with a tree branch and said absentmindedly, “Captain Kendall’s decision is the best, I have no disagreements.”

Captain Kendall hesitated for a moment before looking back at everyone else, “Since brother Jian Chen has no disagreements, then tomorrow morning we shall leave the Magical Beast Mountain Range and rest up for a few days in Wake City. Brother Jian Chen had fought Class 3 Magical Beasts continuously, so I am sure even he is tired by now.” For the first time, Captain Kendall’s voice held some hesitation in it. Class 3 Magical Beasts were something the Flame Mercenaries had always wanted to provoke in order to test their own strength. These past few days of following Jian Chen’s lead, they had picked up many Class 3 Magical Beast corpses and strengthened themselves. This type of situation had given the Flame Mercenaries an incomparably matchless amount of happiness. If their conditions allowed it, then everyone would have loved to stay around the Magical Beast Mountain Range for a few more days.

However, they knew in their hearts that while Jian Chen had

suffered virtually no injuries after fighting battle after battle against Class 3 Magical Beasts, he had to be exhausted. Jian Chen needed to rest and readjust his body.

“When we return, the very first thing we have to do is to handle the corpses of the Magical Beast. The longer they stay in the Space Belts the faster they’ll go stale which will bring down the price.” Xia Dao poked at his Space Belt as he spoke.

Following Xiao Dao’s action, the others subconsciously reached out to touch their Space Belts as well. Right now, each of them had 1-2, and some even had 3-4 smaller Class 3 Magical Beast carcasses stored within them. In addition, the items originally inside their Space Belts had all been transferred to Captain Kendall. After all, none of their family properties were worth much anyways.

At that moment, a savory scent wafted into the air from the campfire, it was the smell of the pieces of the Magical Beast meat being cooked to a golden color as the tender fat began to drip down slowly due to caramelization. The fat continued to drip down to the floor causing everyone to hear it.

Smelling the dense aroma let loose everyone’s appetites. Some people’s stomachs even began to growl loudly.

Suddenly, Jian Chen’s ears twitched. He abruptly turned around to look behind him. The moment he looked back, he saw that a petite, animal-like body shot toward him from the distance, as fast as lightning. Jian Chen’s vision blurred for a mere second, but that was enough time for the petite figure to approach him.

“Everyone be careful!” Jian Chen cried out. Unable to have enough time to identify what type of magical beast this was. Both of his hands slapped onto the ground as he leapt up from his sitting posture on the floor. Flying in midair, Jian Chen’s Light Wind Sword instantaneously appeared within Jian Chen’s right hand.

The rest of the Flame Mercenaries weren’t slow to react either. As soon as they heard Jian Chen’s cry, all of the people had stood up from their spots, and materialized their Spirit Weapons, cautiously surveying their surroundings.

Jian Chen’s body rolled through the air until he landed 3 meters away on the ground. His eyes stared at the campfire and then at the small beast right next to it.

The little beast looked quite adorable. It had pure gold fur which shone under the fire’s illumination, practically radiating a mist of light. Its eyes were locked onto the barbeque cooking over the fire, which was currently emitting an extremely savory aroma. It continuously licked its lips with its small tongue to wet them, as its front claws eagerly shifted on the ground where it stood. It looked like it was extremely impatient.

Seeing that the small beast in front of him wasn’t even 0.33m long, Jian Chen immediately let loose a breath. Based on the small beast’s appearance, it was evident that it had been enticed by the magical beast meat’s delicious aroma.

“Jian Chen, just what happened exactly?” Kendall’s voice rang

out. The moment he had heard Jian Chen's voice, he had immediately went on guard as he observed what was happening around him, but whatever was happening he didn't notice.

Jian Chen bitterly smiled, "Nothing really. It was just that, that thing suddenly ran out." Jian Chen extended his finger to point at the little beast currently standing in front of the fire.

Hearing this, everyone looked at the direction Jian Chen pointed at. It was only at that moment that they realized there was a small beast there.

"That's...." A few people exchanged surprised glances.

Kendall walked forward a few steps as he investigated the area and then at the small beast there before revealing a thinking expression. "It looks like this is the cub of a Magical Beast. Jian Chen, do you think you can figure out where this cub came from or what type of magical beast it is?"

Jian Chen unhurriedly approached the little beast, and slowly crouched down to survey the little beast. The beast wasn't the least bit afraid of the strangers surrounding it; it didn't even bother to glance at them. Its eyes were instead completely locked onto the cooking meat. It might have been because it wasn't scared of people, or it might've been because it was still young, but it did not seem afraid at all.

Seeing the little beast in such a state, Jian Chen couldn't help but smile. He reached a hand out to grab one of the meat skewers, and

ripped off a piece of the golden, cooked meat. He then waved it in front of the beast's nose, letting it smell it a bit more.

“Aooo!” “Aooo!” “Aooo!”

The little beast's eyes were now tightly locked onto the piece of meat that Jian Chen had ripped off, and it began to stamp its four hooves impatiently. Finally, its entire body stood up, and it continued to cry out ‘Ao ao!’ as saliva fell from the corners of its mouth.

Seeing how much the little beast wanted to eat the piece of meat. Jian Chen stopped enticing it, and directly placed the meat into its mouth. The little beast immediately extended its two front claws to tightly hug the piece of meat. Then it directly placed it into its mouth to wolf it down, completely unafraid of how hot it was.

Jian Chen extended his hand to turn the cub. At this moment he was sizing it up, and the cub hadn't yet realized that it was being looked at by a few other people. It continued to stuff the pieces of magical beast meat in its mouth.

Looking at the cub, Jian Chen's face gradually grew brighter as an excited smile appeared on it.

“Jian Chen, have you figured out what type of magical beast this is or where it's from?” Chang Ning Feng asked as he watched the reactions on Jian Chen's face.

Jian Chen slowly put down the cub as he said excitedly, “If I’m not wrong about my information, then this should be the cub of the Class 5 Golden Fur Tiger King.”

“What, the cub of a Class 5 Golden Fur Tiger King? Jian Chen, are you sure you aren’t mistaken?” Kabolds covered his mouth in surprise, his tone unable to hide his astonishment. Everyone else had similar expressions of shock and disbelief as well.

The cub of the Class 5 Golden Fur Tiger King; although it wasn’t too strong, this type of magical beast still had a plethora of superior innate advantages. When it becomes an adult, it would have the strength of an Earth Saint Master without any obstructions. It could even be said that it was smooth sailing for it while having a large amount of room to improve unlike regular magical beasts. After its adulthood, there was still an endless road of cultivation to be had so it could slowly improve its strength, but whether or not it could cultivate long enough to become a Class 5 Magical Beast, that could not be said for sure.

Jian Chen sized up the little beast that was currently eating with relish, and said, “I shouldn’t be wrong.” Jian Chen had already read quite a few books about magical beasts back at Kargath Academy’s library. Thus, Jian Chen knew majority of the magical beast types in Tian Yun Continent. The most eye-catching thing on a Golden Fur Tiger King was its pure golden fur, as well as the symbol for “[King](#)” being imprinted onto it. It was for this reason that Jian Chen could say for sure what type of beast this was.

王 is the symbol for King

The Flame Mercenaries all inhaled sharply. Currently, all of their

hearts were uncontrollably racing. Although a Class 5 Magical Beast cub's strength was far from an actual Class 5, as well as the fact that it would still take quite a while for it to reach adulthood, its value was far more than an adult Class 5 Magical Beast.

This was because an adult Class 5 Magical Beast already possessed basic intelligence, and would rather die than become a human's pet or mount. That's why taming an adult magical beast was incomparably difficult. However, a young magical beast was different; because it had yet to mature, taming it was extremely easy. Moreover, it was much easier to foster a relationship with one. If one started taming a Class 5 Magical Beast while it was still a cub, it would not only have the strength of any other Class 5 Magical Beast when it reached adulthood, it would also continue to grow, and could reach Class 6. There was even a possibility that it could become a Class 7 Magical Beast.

The most important thing was that during this time, the bonds between the cub and its tamer would be very deep. This way, there would be no need to expend as much effort to get a strong magical beast that would be extremely loyal to its master and would never betray him. So for that reason, the cub of a Class 5 Magical Beast would be priceless in the market. If the cub of a Class 5 Magical Beast were to appear, then there would be many strong parties that would try to fight over it.

"I hadn't thought that we'd actually discover a Class 5 Magical Beast cub. Moreover, it was a cub that approached us by itself. Our luck is really amazing." Xiao Dao said in excitement.

"Haha, if we sell this Class 5 Magical Beast cub, I wonder how

much money we can get.” Hu Po said in a tone that was just as excited. He looked at the Golden Fur Tiger King cub as if it were a mountain of glittering gold.

Kabolds’ face grew even more excited for a moment before turning serious. “It doesn’t matter whether or not if we can sell it for a higher price, if we can capture it for sure, then in our future, we won’t ever need to come back to the Magical Beast Mountain Range and hunt for money. Right now, the only problem is that the parents of this cub are somewhere, if we were to come across them somehow, then we would definitely not make it out alive. After all a Class 5 Magical Beast is far beyond our capabilities.” Kabolds’ gaze became more concentrated as he surveyed his surroundings before saying, “The most important question is, how are we are going to transport the cub?”

Chapter 119: Fighting Over The Cub

Hearing Kabolds' words the smile on everyone's faces slowly dissipated. What he had said wasn't false; if they were to try and take the cub of the Golden Fur Tiger King, they would encounter a multitude of trouble. Even if they didn't come across the parents of this cub, bringing it back to Wake City would still be a tremendously difficult task. After all, a cub was a living animal; it could not go into the space within a Space Belt without dying, since the inside of the belt was uninhabitable. Thus, they would have to transport it from the outside. But since the road would have many groups of people, the news of a Golden Fur Tiger King cub would quickly spread about. By that point, many strong factions would come and try to provoke the Flame Mercenaries. With their current strength, this would be something they wouldn't be able to fend off.

“Hahahaha, if you don't have the power to carry the cub of the Golden Fur Tiger King out, then why don't you just hand it over to us?”

At that moment, a loud shout with unconcealed joy was heard. The dark figure of a person came into view, as well as a whole group of people accompanying him. They quickly surrounded the Flame Mercenaries. There were 20 people in total, with each of them wearing a steel helmet and metal armor. Many of the mercenaries were wearing broken armor, while some of them had blood dripping from them. Just one look at them was enough for people to tell that they had just been in a fight.

Seeing such a large crowd of people come out of nowhere, everyone in the Flame Mercenaries suddenly grew unsightly

expressions. But the moment they saw the little emblems on their chests, their faces immediately lost all color. Even Kendall was deathly pale as he spoke, “So it’s the Zhou Mercenaries.” His voice trembled with each syllable.

“Hahahaha, you have quite the eyesight to recognize us. Hand over the Tiger Cub to us nice and easy; you already know the consequences if you don’t.” The leader spoke with a cold gaze directed at each person in front of him in disdain. However, as he looked at the still eating Tiger Cub, an unconcealed happiness could be seen in his eyes.

No one in the Flame Mercenaries said a thing as their faces continued to lose color rapidly.

Jian Chen swept his eyes over each individual Zhou Mercenary. With his power, he could already determine how strong each mercenary roughly was. In his eyes, aside from the two Saint Masters, everyone else was a Great Saint. Those two Saint Masters, however, were still higher than Captain Kendall, and was probably at least Middle Saint Master level.

Jian Chen slowly let loose a small breath of air as he looked around himself. With his strength, as long as there wasn’t a Great Saint master, there wouldn’t be a problem.

“Aooo!” “Aooooo!”

By this point, the cub had already finished eating all of the magical beast meat given to it, and was now hungrily staring at the

still grilling pieces over the bonfire. It began to cry out nonstop for the meat in hunger, completely unaware of the danger that was looming around it.

Jian Chen slowly crouched down and took the cub into his chest. At the same time, each and every member of the Zhou Mercenaries glared at Jian Chen with a cold look, emitting murderous intent.

“Kid, hand over the cub to me now. Otherwise, you’ll be dying here and now.” The leader of the Zhou Mercenaries shouted at Jian Chen.

Hearing this, Jian Chen returned their stares back at them without a hint of anger in them. Instead, he began to smile and said, “Even if we hand over the cub to you, you won’t let us go because you’re afraid that we’ll spread news of the cub, and bring about unavoidable trouble onto you. Moreover, the trouble stirred would be quite major.”

The leader sneered as he stared at Jian Chen. “You’re quite intelligent, but there are times that the smarter a person is, the sooner they die. And so sometimes, a man doesn’t want to be intelligent. Being stupid would allow them to live a little longer.” As he spoke, a great amount of Saint Force was being concentrated within his right arm, quickly forming a long sword.

The leader pointed the tip of the sword at Jian Chen and said coldly, “Kid, I’ll give you one last chance. Hand over the cub obediently, otherwise, I swear I’ll make you die a wretched death.” The man growled as the other Zhou Mercenaries began to take out their own Saint Weapons and surrounded Jian Chen to suppress

him with their intimidation.

At the same time, the Flame Mercenaries had decided not to be outdone, and started to materialize their own Saint Weapons. They were extremely grave as they internally understood that even if they handed over the cub to the Zhou Mercenaries, they would still be killed. If it was the other way around, they would have done the same thing, and not let the Zhou Mercenaries go. So if they were to die, they wanted to take down a Zhou Mercenary along with them. Even if they couldn't, the Zhou Mercenaries definitely wouldn't escape from this without a few casualties.

Seeing the reactions of everyone in the Flame Mercenaries, the leader of the Zhou Mercenaries sneered with disdain before looking back to Jian Chen and saying, "Kid, no more kidding around. If you hand over the cub to me, I'll spare your lives." Right now, the cub was in Jian Chen's arms. Seeing how Jian Chen had no intentions of letting it go, the man was afraid that if he were to act rashly, Jian Chen would kill the cub.

Jian Chen evidently knew why the man was hesitating and couldn't help but laugh. His left hand held the howling cub while his right hand patted the shaggy fur on top of its head. "You wanted this cub so badly, so why aren't you coming to get it? Could it be you have the guts to say you want it, but not the guts to take it?"

The cold stare intensified onto Jian Chen as the man's face froze impassively. In his heart he had felt a strange premonition. Jian Chen's reaction was completely abnormal, letting him feel a bit uneasy.

“You! Bring me that cub!” The leader called out to a nearby mercenary.

“Yes!” The mercenary didn’t hesitate at all as he walked toward Jian Chen carefully as if to test and see what Jian Chen would do.

When the mercenary cautiously walked up to Jian Chen, Jian Chen unexpectedly didn’t show any signs of movement. Instead, he simply stood there with an unchanging smile. Despite this, the mercenary still didn’t dare to let his guard down. He slowly reached his hand out to carefully grab at the cub in Jian Chen’s hands.

At the same time, every mercenary in the Zhou Mercenaries clenched their Saint Weapons tightly. Even the leader was growing tenser by the second as he looked at Jian Chen.

In a flash, the mercenary had succeeded in taking the club despite the struggle it had put up. From beginning to end, the mercenary had been extremely wary of any sudden attacks by Jian Chen.

At that moment, Jian Chen’s eyes grew cold as the Light Wind Sword appeared in his right hand. Transforming into a silver ray of light, it flashed towards the mercenary’s throat like silver lightning.

Although the mercenary was attentively guarding against Jian Chen, the sword strike was far too fast for him to dodge. The moment the flash of silver lightning had passed, the man had only

felt a small pain in his throat. And right under his eyes, the image of a silver sword had abruptly appeared. In the next second, the mercenary choked and wordlessly screamed in agony as he fell to the ground. As for the Class 5 cub, it had flown through the air fallen down onto the ground while howling loudly.

Jian Chen's sword was so fast that even if the mercenary had forewarning about blocking against this sword, he would've failed. Jian Chen's sword was far too fast for the other man to dodge what was almost second nature for Jian Chen to aim for.

The leader of the Zhou Mercenaries looked a bit at loss as he watched Jian Chen pierce the throat of the mercenary with an incredulous look on his face. He was secretly astonished at how fast the sword was traveling. Even with his Peak Saint Master strength, he had only seen the faint image of the sword, and was utterly incapable of seeing it clearly.

In a short moment, the leader regained his thoughts as he squashed the astonishment within his heart. "Everyone, forward. Slaughter without mercy, but do not harm the cub!" He commanded as he raised his sword with his armored hand. With an ear piercing whistle, his weapon slashed downward at Jian Chen's head.

Within the Zhou Mercenaries, the only other Saint Master expert had pulled out his sword and mimicked the leader's action by trying to cut down Jian Chen. From his initial strike, the two Saint Masters had already realized that Jian Chen wouldn't be an easy opponent to fight against, so the two Zhou Mercenaries of the Saint Master level silently agreed to kill Jian Chen first.

On the other side, the Flame Mercenaries began to fight with the other members of the Zhou Mercenaries, embroiling the place into the flames of war. Although the Flame Mercenaries didn't scatter apart, they gathered around in a circle and had the three Saints like Xiao Dao protected within. In this type of battle, the Saints like Xiao Dao would have no chance to battle, and would only die a vain death if they tried. The 5 Great Saints and the Primary Saint Master Kendall formed the outside circle, and were prepared to fight any of the Zhou Mercenaries to the death.

However, because of the difference in strength between the two sides, the fight didn't last long. The Flame Mercenaries were already at a clear disadvantage and were already being pressured by the Zhou Mercenaries, to the point of being able to only defend.

With his sword in hand, Jian Chen's imposing manner drastically changed. His demeanor was like a sharp sword that had just been unsheathed, giving the people around him the sensation of being shown off to. In an instant, the sword suddenly grew colder, and somehow seemed to become sharper. To the enemies of the same rank, it was almost as if the sword was robbing them of their courage.

Chapter 120: The Shocking Arrival Of The Tiger King

Jian Chen simply had no desire to make contact with the sword of the leader of the Zhou Mercenaries. Narrowly dodging the giant sword of the leader, Jian Chen's sword disappeared into a blur of silver light once more as Jian Chen stabbed at the leader.

Although Jian Chen's fighting ability was no weaker than a Saint Master, that was only because of his fighting strength. The Saint Force within his body was still weaker than the one within a Saint Master by quite the amount. So if Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword were to make contact with the leader of the Zhou Mercenaries, then Jian Chen would be the one at a disadvantage here, making collisions between the two an unwise choice.

Jian Chen's strongest advantage was his fast swordplay which would allow him to beat anyone within his strength level before they could even react to it. Even for those who were a grade higher than him in strength, they would only be able to see the faint and blurry images of the sword. With his Profound Steps, Jian Chen would even be able to fight against anyone higher than himself provided they weren't a Wind Attributed Saint.

Against a Saint Force that was stronger than his own, unless it was absolutely necessary, Jian Chen did not want to take any risks and end up facing against his weak point.

Seeing Jian Chen use such an inconceivable speed to attack his throat, the leader's face became extremely serious as his Saint Force began to frantically circulate within his body. With his body

in a peak state of fitness, the man's body turned around and then leapt to the side in order to narrowly dodge Jian Chen's otherwise fatal sword.

Although Jian Chen had been fast in his movements, the Peak Saint Master strength leader had only been forced to dodge to the side. Although, at the same time, looking at the shoulder plate of the man, Jian Chen could see the white scar traces from where the Light Wind Sword had grazed by.

With a turn of his wrist, the Light Wind Sword had suddenly moved in a way that made it look like a tiny snake under the skillful hand of Jian Chen. As the sword swished through the air, it pursued the nearby figure of the man who had only just recently dodged the sword.

The leader's face had never been so serious. Although he could feel that Jian Chen's strength was nowhere near his own, the speed of Jian Chen's sword was far beyond what he could do. He could only dodge the sword narrowly, and with the sword relentlessly pursuing his throat, if he were to make a small mistake, then the possibility that he would lose his life was very high.

Without hesitation, the leader brought his giant sword up to block the the sword aimed at his throat. The moment he had brought the sword up to his neck, the Light Wind Sword had already brushed against it. Although the Light Wind Sword had failed to pierce into the leader's body, the Sword Qi that was coiling around the blade had made the leader extremely terrified. Secretly thinking to himself, "What a sharp Sword Qi! What type

of method did this kid use to cultivate, could it be that he used a Battle Skill?" Just thinking about the term Battle Skill had inadvertently fired up the man's spirits and he couldn't help but think to spare Jian Chen. He thought that he could wrest away the Battle Skill from Jian Chen. Since Battle Skills were indeed very precious within the Tian Yuan Continent and that it helped ones cultivation improve by leaps and bounds. Even though he was one of the highest ranked member of the Zhou Mercenaries in Wake City, he didn't have a Battle Skill and neither did the Great Saint Masters in the group.

As his mind wandered about this topic, a fierce crisis was about to overturn him. Seeing that the silver white light was rapidly getting bigger within his eyesight, he realized that this next sword stroke was two or three times faster than the last two strikes. In an instant, the silver sword had evaded his own great sword and arrived at his throat. A small ray of light could be seen as the sharp point of the sword flashed from within the glare.

The leader was terrified beyond belief. In the moment he had reacted, there was only a foot separating him and the Sword Qi enveloped blade but the sword had traveled this distance within a flash. Even though the leader had the strength of a Peak Saint Master, there would be no time for him to dodge it.

Just as the Light Wind Sword was about to pierce into the leader's throat, an ear piercing sound was heard as another sword came in from the side. Abruptly knocking against the Light Wind Sword, it altered the trajectory of it so that it would go past the leader's neck without harm.

The sudden appearance of this sword was caused by the second Saint Master of the Zhou Mercenaries.

Even after knocking the Light Wind Sword out of the way, that man didn't stop there. He immediately attacked Jian Chen fiercely while the leader cried out, "Kasa, for you to not pay attention at a time like this, did you want to die you bastard?"

Although that man was yelling at him, the leader wasn't angry at all. Instead he felt his neck with his own hand as his face grew pale and his forehead started to drip with sweat. This was because when he felt his neck where his leather armor was, there was a gap revealing where the sword had gone through. If it were not for the intervention of another person, then having a simple cut on his leather armor would have been the least of his worries.

At this moment, Jian Chen had already struck back at the second Saint Master. This man only had Middle Saint Master strength and was weaker than the leader of the Zhou Mercenaries by a small margin. In the few rounds Jian Chen had exchanged with the other Saint Master, he was slowly pushing back the other Saint Master.

"Kasa, why are you just standing there foolishly? Come quickly and help me, this kid's sword is far too fast for me to continue blocking any longer! Goddamnit, how is his speed this fast?" Looking at the still dazed leader, the mercenary that was fighting Jian Chen cursed out loud at him. Fighting Jian Chen was like fighting against the storming rain and winds itself, and with each series of sword strokes Jian Chen had swung, the more difficult it was getting to defend against. Even his leather armor was starting to have traces of Jian Chen's sword running across it despite the

extraordinary resilience of the leather. He was afraid that very soon, his body wouldn't have an area without a wound running across it.

Hearing his friend curse at him, the leader's eyes narrowed as the Saint Force within his Saint Weapon pulsed tremendously. Raising his arm, he immediately dashed forward to slash down on Jian Chen.

As the sword dropped down, a small amount of Sword Qi flickered as it flew toward Jian Chen.

Sparing a sideways glance at Kasa, Jian Chen swayed slightly to the side and dodged the Sword Qi filled blade. The sword continued onwards to smash into a large tree with a resounding boom, allowing everyone to hear and see a large gash being revealed on the trunk.

Afterwards, another ear piercing shriek was heard as the two Saint Masters were already ready to strike once more, their Saint Weapons filling the air with their Saint Force.

Jian Chen's eyes grew cold as he stared unflinchingly at the two incoming blades. The Light Wind Sword began to release an even denser amount of Sword Qi that seemed to cover the entire sky as the sword made contact with the other two swords.

“Ding ding ding...”

The metallic sounds of swords rang out in the forest as in that moment, Jian Chen had swung out 18 times with his sword, each one accurately hitting the other blades.

Each one of the 18 strikes hit the great swords right on the blade fiercely, causing the blade to shake with a strong vibration with every hit. When the amount of strikes had hit 18, the amount of energy transmitted into the other swords was far too much for the Zhou Mercenaries to handle. Immediately, both of the mercenaries' right arms went numb, especially the place between their thumb and forefinger.

Feeling the extreme amount of numbness in their arms, the two mercenaries looked at each other in shock. At this moment, the two of them had secretly wanted to flee, although they knew that Jian Chen's strength wasn't on par with them, Jian Chen was showing off a fighting strength that was frightening the both of them. His strength was hard to defend against, and against his lightning fast speed, they both had to push their concentration to the extreme or risk seeing each other at the Yellow River. If they were not careful, then their deaths here would be for certain.

“Captain Kasa, the cub is already in our possession.”

The two Saint Masters turned around to hear who had just spoken, only to see an armored mercenary with the struggling cub in his hands. Its claws waved about in midair as it howled unceasingly. While it was a cute sight, it was also quite a pathetic one.

Seeing this, the two mercenaries had a joyous smile on their

faces, but then at the same time, Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword flashed toward the leader's throat once more. This time, Kasa was neither on guard nor able to dodge in time, and the other Saint Master was in no position to save him like last time. The Sword Qi enhanced sword slashed through Kasa's leather armor and pierced straight into his throat.

"Kasa!" The other mercenary reached out in shock, but at the moment he saw his leader's throat pierced through, his eyes bulged out of his eye sockets as he roared. A large amount of Saint Force began to condense within his Saint Weapon as he slashed at Jian Chen with it.

Jian Chen didn't even bother to spare him a glance as he stamped off the ground. The force propelled him forward like an artillery shell as he rocketed toward the mercenary with the struggling cub.

Seeing the Peak Saint Master Captain Kasa be killed, the mercenary's eyes bulged as he couldn't believe that such a strong expert would be killed so easily. However the mercenary wasn't that stupid and immediately threw the cub at the remaining Saint Master that was fighting against Jian Chen.

"Captain Cross, catch!"

The cub flew into the air in a wild arc before landing perfectly within the arms of the last remaining Saint Master.

Seeing the Class 5 cub within his hand, Captain Cross' previously murderous face suddenly calmed down as he hesitated before

saying, “Everyone move out from here.”

“Houuuu!”

As Cross spoke, the deep growl of a tiger suddenly came loudly from the depths of the forest. Coming through the pitch darkness, the twenty something people there all froze as they realized what they had just heard.

Chapter 121: A Frantic Escape

As the roar was heard, the previously quiet Magical Beast Mountain Range became noisy once more. Practically every single magical beast was awoken and their sounds began to cry out in every direction. Every magical beast had made a sound, but not a single one of them would dare go against the tiger.

Hearing the roar of the tiger, Jian Chen's face changed into a severely serious one. "Oh no, this is the roar of the Golden Fur Tiger King!" His voice was unnaturally serious since the Golden Fur Tiger King was a Class 5 Magical Beast. This magical beast was special in the way that if it had reached a threshold, it could transform its body and from that moment on, it would enter a new world. The Class 5 Magical Beast was far different than a class 4 Magical Beast, and with Jian Chen's current strength, taking care of a Class 4 Magical Beast would be hard already, let alone a Class 5 one.

"Not good, it's the roar of the Golden Fur Tiger King! Run, run quickly, everyone scatter or else we'll all die here!" Captain Cross shouted as his voice trembled with fear. Even before he could finish his warning, he had immediately taken off into the forest with the cub of the Golden Fur Tiger King. Even the mercenaries who had been fighting the Flame Mercenaries immediately gave up the fight and immediately followed Cross into the forest.

Suddenly, before Captain Cross could get too far into the forest, Jian Chen sped forward like a speed demon as his Light Wind Sword flashed silver and aimed straight at the man's throat. Even at a dangerous time like this, Jian Chen had no plans of letting him go.

Cross' face changed rapidly as he waved his own sword around. As his sword collided against Jian Chen's, Cross snarled, "Have you gone crazy? The Class 5 Magical Beast Golden Fur Tiger King is coming. If you continue to try to stop me, then you'll lose your chance to escape."

Jian Chen was indifferent to Cross' words, almost as if he hadn't heard Cross speak at all. The Light Wind Sword transformed into a ray of silver light as it traveled toward Cross once more.

Cross raised his sword to defend himself against the lightning-like strikes. With no time to dodge, he was stabbed through the shoulder by Jian Chen who at the same time grabbed at the cub with his left hand.

Cross couldn't help but curse in pain as he continued to retreat with the cub in his hands still. "Everyone come together to block this kid. This cub is far too important for our Zhou Mercenaries to lose!"

Hearing this, each Zhou Mercenary began to hesitate, but no one dared to disobey Cross' orders. Five men charged at Jian Chen with their Saint Weapons in hand in an effort to stall him. Cross had then fled into the surrounding forests while the unwilling mercenaries had stayed behind at first before quickly following Cross into the forest.

Because Great Saints weren't a threat to Jian Chen at all, he had quickly dropped down 5 of them, the group of mercenaries that

had followed Cross were quickly dropping like flies.

“Hou!”

The previously faraway roar of the tiger was getting closer as the Golden Fur Tiger King was approaching at rapid speeds. Jian Chen’s face grew even more anxious as he looked at Kendall and said, “The Golden Fur Tiger King is approaching this area quickly, it won’t take too long before it gets here. Captain Kendall, it’s not good to stay here, let’s leave quickly.”

Kendall looked at the blood soaked members of the Flame mercenaries and the multiple wounds on them. It was a good thing the battle didn’t go on for long, otherwise they would have suffered from casualties.

“Everyone hurry up and run away.”

Unable to dress up their bloody wounds, everyone quickly began to dash into the forest with great speed, but because of the various wounds they had, their movements weren’t all that fast.

“Hou!”

Another roar of the tiger rang out and this time it was extremely close by. In an instant, everyone could hear the tiger running towards them. The wind pressure it was generating was enough to flatten the tree leaves to the ground.

Every single member of the Flame Mercenaries went pale in the face. As Kendall fled for his life, he looked behind him at Jian Chen and threw his Space Belt at him, “Jian Chen, you have the strongest strength amongst all of us, so your chance of escaping is the highest among us. I entrust my Space Belt to you; you have to make sure you take this out.”

Seeing Captain Kendall throw his Space Belt at him, Jian Chen wanted to refuse it, but then Kendall opened his mouth once more, “Jian Chen, don’t refuse it. If by chance we don’t make it out of these forests, then I beg of you to take care of our families! If I die here, then their lives would take a turn for the worse. My parents, my wife, and my child, they won’t be able to live a good life in the future, so it all depends on you.” Kendall pleaded with Jian Chen.

Sending a complicated look at Kendall, Jian Chen nodded his head resolutely. Taking in the Space Belt, Jian Chen stared for a little longer and said, “Uncle Kendall, we’ll definitely make it out of here; that Golden Fur Tiger King isn’t looking for us.”

“Ahhhh, save me!” A call for help suddenly came from behind.

“Kabolds, that was Kabolds. He fell in the swamps, quickly now, grab onto my hand Kabolds...” A voice called out. It was Xiao Dao who was extremely anxious.

Hearing this, everyone stood still as Jian Chen looked behind him at Xiao Dao, only to see him on his belly with his hand outstretched into the swamps. In the swamp, Kabolds figure was already completely submerged.

Jian Chen's face changed as he immediately followed what Xiao Dao was doing and plunged his hand into the swamp. However, like Xiao Dao, his hand had felt nothing.

"Kabolds..." Xiao Dao closed his eyes in pain and sorrow.

"Ai!" Jian Chen sighed before hitting Xiao Dao on the shoulder, "Go." And then began to run once more.

The other members began to sigh in sorrow as they closed their eyes. After a brief moment of silence, they continued to run deeper into the forest. With every second lost was another second of running that was thrown away.

Because it was almost nightfall, the Magical Beast Mountain Range was very dark so the visibility was low. On the path, everyone had tripped more than once, but they each picked themselves up from the ground as quickly as they fell and continued to run. Some decided to run on top of the tree branches in order to avoid the swamps below.

After a while, Jian Chen's foot suddenly stopped, halting his forward momentum.

"Jian Chen, what are you doing slowing down? Hurry up and run." Kendall said anxiously.

Jian Chen didn't speak and pointed ahead of them. Kendall

looked to where Jian Chen's finger was pointing at, only to see the blurry figures of 10 mercenaries up ahead panting with exhaustion.

"It's the Zhou Mercenaries." Jian Chen said.

Kendall's eyes flashed with a cold glare as he growled, "So it is, they're not running, so what are they doing standing there?"

"They can't run, the road ahead of them is blocked off by a Class 4 Magical Beast. Why is there a Class 4 Magical Beast here? Come, let's take a detour around." Jian Chen jumped to a branch nearby.

"Hou!"

Another tiger roar came from behind, this time closer than ever. The roar was so loud, it shook the eardrums of the Flame Mercenaries, causing them to go deaf for a moment. After the roar, the gigantic figure came bursting in from behind and headed toward the Zhou Mercenaries.

Soon after the roar, the members of the Zhou Mercenaries all fell to the ground, with a single member lifted into the air by the giant jaw of the tiger.

"Not good, the Golden Fur Tiger King is far too fast, in such a short time it overtook us in speed. Let's go quickly, otherwise there'll be no chance." Seeing the shadowy figure, Jian Chen cried out in shock at the appearance of it before immediately jumping without hesitation into the foliage nearby.

Ahead, the Zhou Mercenaries who were all alive and well one breath ago, had fallen to the claws of the Golden Fur Tiger King. All that was left was the mercenary who was holding the cub-Cross.

The Golden Fur Tiger King was the real deal, those who were only at the Great Saint level or under would not be able to withstand even a single hit from it.

Cross' left hand held the the cub as his right hand held a sword that was ready to pierce the cub's neck, causing a stalemate between the Golden Fur Tiger King and him.

The Golden Fur Tiger King was four meters long, but because of the guise of the night, the entire body of the tiger couldn't be seen clearly.

"Hou!" The Golden Fur Tiger King growled as its eyes became crimson. Staring at Cross with a furious glare, it didn't dare to act rashly with the cub in Cross' hands. As a Class 5 Magical Beast, it had enough knowledge to understand the situation.

"Get back, get back, hurry up and retreat, otherwise we'll all die here." Cross cried out in terror as he stared at the Golden Fur Tiger King. His entire body was shaking and his forehead was dripping with sweat.

"Aoo! Aoo!" The cub began to struggle within the hands of Cross. Even it had begun to feel a little afraid, even though it was a Class 5

Magical Beast in potential, it was still young, and did not have much power at the moment.

The Golden Fur Tiger King didn't give way, but then Cross bit his lip and pressed down with his sword, causing a few strands of golden fur to be cut away from the cub.

“Hou!” The Golden Fur Tiger King hastily growled before slowly retreating backward a few steps. However, the crimson glare in its eyes had intensified.

Behind Cross was yet another Class 4 Tiger that stared him down like one would look at their prey.

Chapter 122: The Death Of Kendall

Seeing the Golden Fur Tiger King retreat, Cross let loose a sigh of relief. At this moment, his heart was pounding, and if anyone were to stand behind him, they would be able to clearly hear it. In this moment of desperation, Cross was nearly at the end of the road of life. However, he was rejoicing now because he had succeeded. Yet at the same time, it was far too early to rejoice, since while the Golden Fur Tiger King was temporarily held back due to the cub, the Class 4 Tiger behind was not. There was no way for Cross to make the Class 4 Tiger retreat, but he had to make sure he didn't do anything hasty; otherwise it would lead to an unwanted ending.

Right now the Golden Fur Tiger King's eyes were crimson with fury, and the experienced Cross knew that the tiger was in a stage of extreme rage; it was only because of the fact that he had the cub that it was not acting out on impulse. That cub was Cross' protective charm, and if he were to lose control of it, Cross knew that what would come next would be the end of his life.

Under the threat of death, Cross was strangely calm as he thought about what to do next. Despite being in a situation where death was all but guaranteed, he still did not give up his desire to live. As long as there was an opportunity, he wouldn't let it go. Although, with everything said, it was an extremely weak strand of an opportunity to live, and there he wasn't certain if he would be able to escape.

Then, Cross' eyes landed on the nearby Flame Mercenaries. His heart thumped for a second before he immediately tossed the cub over to where they stood.

“Hou!” Just as Cross made a move, the glaring Golden Fur Tiger King exploded into action. Immediately bursting over to where Cross stood, it swung both of its paws onto Cross’ shoulders, inflicting deep wounds on his shoulders. The tiger released a sky shattering roar, making Cross unable to breathe.

Because of the Golden Fur Tiger King’s action, Cross immediately paled as he started to mentally blank out. He had thrown the cub over to the Flame Mercenaries because he had thought that the Golden Fur Tiger King would change targets, but he hadn’t thought that the tiger would move that fast. The moment he had thrown the cub, the tiger had appeared right in front of him. At that moment, Cross knew that his life was over.

“Aoo! Aooo!”

The cub began to cry out in fear after being thrown by Cross. The sense of weightlessness had terrified the cub, causing it to cry out even more than before.

Seeing the cub rise into the air and then arc downward, the crimson eyes of the tiger grew alarmed as it began to panic. With a single roar, it leapt away from its position over Cross’s body and chased after the midair cub.

Feeling the heaviness in his shoulders being lifted, Cross was momentarily stunned. Seeing how the Golden Fur Tiger King had chased after the cub, he immediately awoke to his senses and had an ecstatic smile on his face. Despite the deep burning sensation he

was feeling from his shoulders, his arms and legs fiercely pushed against the ground and he stood up. Limping into the forest, he then disappeared from sight.

Seeing Cross flee into the bushes, the Class 4 Tiger that had been blocking the route uneasily stamped both of its paws on the ground, and desperately wanted to chase after him. However after seeing the explosion of anger from the Golden Fur Tiger King, it suppressed its impulse. Although they initially possessed some intelligence, Class 4 Magical Beasts were still too stupid. Their abilities to think through problems couldn't possibly compare to a mature human adult's. The Golden Fur Tiger King had only told it to block the group of people in its path, but it didn't tell the tiger to chase after anyone that tried to flee. Before any further commands came from the Golden Fur Tiger King, this muscle brained Class 4 Tiger could only stare helplessly as Cross escaped. Even if it wanted to chase after it, it didn't dare to.

Just as Captain Kendall was about to disappear into the foliage, a black blur flew over and struck him in the chest before falling to the ground.

In response, Captain Kendall instinctively reached out his hand to pick up what had hit him. The moment his hand brushed against the black object, he understood just what exactly it was, and grew pale in the face. "Crap, this is the cub of the Golden Fur Tiger King." By this point in time, the cub of the Golden Fur Tiger King was no longer a valuable asset, but instead, a burning hot piece of iron. Whoever touched it would be burned.

Just as Kendall had decided to throw the cub back, a terrifying

roar was heard as a black figure instantly flew at him. The large, stinky mouth of the tiger then immediately bit down on Kendall's chest.

There was simply no time for Kendall to react. The entire top half of his body was in the jaws of the Golden Fur Tiger King, and its extremely sharp fangs sank deep within Kendall's body. Blood began to spurt out of his wounds like a fountain, covering the entire top part of his body with a bloody red color.

"Ah~~!" Kendall screamed in pain and desolation. The moment Kendall had been bitten by the tiger, his voice had already sounded weaker.

"Captain Kendall!"

"Uncle Kendall!"

Seeing the top part of Kendall's body being bitten by the tiger, every single member of the Flame Mercenaries glared in hatred at the tiger as they cried out in heart piercing tones.

The heart-wrenching screams of all the Flame Mercenaries reached the ears of Jian Chen, who immediately withdrew from the foliage with a fearful face.

Seeing Kendall pale with fright and blood loss from having the entire top part of his body bitten, Jian Chen let out a shout of alarm. The Light Wind Sword instantly materialized in his right

hand and exploded with a powerful, silver glow as Sword Qi coiled around the blade.

“Whoosh!”

The sword separated from Jian Chen’s palm almost as if it had turned into an intelligent Immortal Sword and flew toward the Golden Fur Tiger King’s head.

The moment the sword brimming with Sword Qi hit the head of the tiger, it only penetrated a small layer of fur, practically doing no heavy amount of damage to it.

Although Jian Chen’s Soul Sword was stronger than his regular attacks by tenfold, the Golden Fur Tiger King was a Class 5 Magical Beast. Since Jian Chen was no more than a Middle Great Saint, inflicting a serious injury was an inconceivable event.

“Hou!” Feeling a small tinge of pain on his head, the tiger’s eyes turned crimson as they looked at Jian Chen. With a mighty force, it tore Kendall’s body in two. The top part of Kendall’s body was immediately swallowed by the Golden Fur Tiger King as the lower half of his body immediately fell to the floor. Blood began to spill everywhere.

“Uncle Kendall!”

Seeing the lower half of Kendall’s body fall to the ground, everyone in the group let out a horrified yell as their eyes teared up

in anguish.

“Hou!” The tiger snarled as it leapt toward where Jian Chen was.

Using the Profound Steps, Jian Chen flew like a speed demon a few distances away in order to dodge the attack of the tiger. At the same time, the spinning Light Wind Sword transformed into a silver streak of light that reorientated itself in midair, and shot toward the tiger’s head once more.

However just as the Light Wind Sword was about to pierce into the tiger’s head, the Golden Fur Tiger King’s tail disappeared in a blur and slapped against the Light Wind Sword with a firm blow.

“Clang!”

The seemingly soft tail of the tiger was surprisingly strong as the Light Wind Sword collided with the tail, creating a crisp sound. The sword was sent flying a few meters away as the incredibly strong Sword Qi around it disappeared, and the sword returned to its normal appearance once more.

Jian Chen’s figure shook slightly as his face began to pale. Slowly, a trickle of blood began to leak out from his mouth because of what happened to his Saint Weapon. His Light Wind Sword symbolized his cultivation, and after using his “spirit” to control it, no matter how much damage was done to it in this state, Jian Chen would feel the direct consequence. While the tail of the tiger hadn’t hit Jian Chen directly, the damage done to the Light Wind Sword was clearly beyond what it could take, making Jian Chen

take on the additional damage.

The Golden Fur Tiger King disappeared along with its shadow as it flew toward Jian Chen at a speed that couldn't be seen by the naked eye. Both of its claws immediately swung down with devastating power toward Jian Chen's chest.

Jian Chen attempted to dodge, but was unfortunately slower than the Golden Fur Tiger King. Because of his wounds from earlier, he was not able to completely evade the tiger's attack.

The claws of the tiger carried a cold wind as they struck into Jian Chen's chest. At the same time, his chest became mutilated, and parts of his chest bones could be seen.

With a great groan of pain, Jian Chen grew as pale as paper as he felt the fierce pain. Against a Class 5 Magical Beast, Jian Chen had no way to protect himself, and even the Soul Sword he was so proud of wasn't enough to leave even the smallest of wounds on the Golden Fur Tiger King.

"Jian Chen, hurry up and escape. I'll stall for you!" Xiao Dao cried out suddenly as he pulled out his small dagger and raised it to stab at the tiger's body.

Chapter 123: The Destruction Of The Flame Mercenaries

“Jian Chen, hurry up and escape. I’ll stall it for you!” Xiao Dao cried out suddenly as he pulled out his small dagger and raised it to stab the body of the tiger.

However the Class 5 Golden Fur Tiger King was far too strong for Xiao Dao to inflict any injuries at all with his Saint strength. Even when the dagger stabbed into the body of the tiger, not a single trace could be seen.

The tail of the tiger disappeared once more as it flew at Xiao Dao.

“Pa!”

A loud sound rang out as the tail of the Golden Fur Tiger King smashed against Xiao Dao’s chest. The clothes around his chest blew apart as he sported a huge indentation on it. The unbelievably strong tail had completely smashed through his chest bones as well as broken apart the inner organs of his body.

Blood mixed in with pieces of his inner organ were belched out of Xiao Dao’s mouth as he flew 10 meters in the air before smashing against a tree.

“Xiao Dao!” Seeing Xiao Dao in such a miserable state, Jian Chen’s face paled as he cried out in shock. However just as he was about to go over and examine the extent of Xiao Dao’s wounds, the

tiger immediately appeared next to him and ruthlessly bit at him. The jaws of the tiger carried an exceptionally bloody odor, making breathing very hard for Jian Chen.

In a split second, Jian Chen forced himself to the right in an attempt to dodge, unable to bear with the pain in his chest. Rolling onto the ground, he moved away from the Golden Fur Tiger King. Against a Class 5 Magical Beast like the tiger, Jian Chen couldn't retaliate at all. With the Soul Sword he was so proud of not even being a threat to the Golden Fur Tiger King, it went to show how big of a difference there was between the two schools.

“You guys hurry up and run, I'll stall it for you guys.” Jian Chen yelled at the Flame Mercenaries behind him.

Hearing Jian Chen, everyone looked at each other in a daze, but other than that, they didn't move. There was still quite the distance until they would be able to escape from the Magical Beast Mountain Range, but with their speed, how would they be able to outrun a Class 5 Magical Beast?

“That won't do, Jian Chen. Out of all of us here, only you have the chance to get away, I'll stall the Golden Fur Tiger and you hurry up and run. Just remember to take revenge for us.” Hu Po cried out with his Saint Weapon in his hand as a way to show his defiant nature against his imminent death. “None of us are capable of shaking off a Class 5 Magical Beast, so there is no hope for us. Everyone come and block the Golden Fur Tiger King, protect Jian Chen as he leaves!”

Seeing the heroic Hu Po dash toward the tiger, everyone had a

look of despair in their eyes.

“Hu Po is right, no matter what we do we will die today. in that case, then why not sacrifice our lives in one spectacular finale and protect Jian Chen. Everyone forward! Block off the tiger!” Chang Ning Feng roared as he brought his giant sword up and chased after Hu Po.

“Jian Chen, remember to avenge us!” The heroic actions of both Hu Po and Chang Ning Feng seemed to have infected the rest of the mercenaries. One after another they carried a grim determination on their faces that seemed to defy death itself and then chased after the Golden Fur Tiger King.

Seeing every single member charge in at the tiger defiantly, Jian Chen was momentarily stunned. Immediately snapping to his senses afterward, he roared, “Out of the question, everyone run away! I’m still able to temporarily stall it a little longer!” Jian Chen immediately connected with the Light Wind Sword, causing a large amount of Sword Qi to once more levitate the sword. However, just one look at the sword everyone could tell that the amount of Sword Qi was weaker than before.

Although everyone had seen the strange thing that was Jian Chen’s sword, it was far too late to actually care about it at that point.

“Jian Chen, hurry up and go, don’t let us sacrifice ourselves in vain!” Chang Ning Feng called out once more.

The tiger's crimson eyes looked at the humans that were charging at it with disdain, however, it did not move a paw to do anything.

Hu Po was the first to reach the body of the tiger. With an explosive yell, the Saint Force within his body entered his battle axe and immediately smashed itself against the tiger's body.

However as strong as Hu Po's blow on the Golden Fur Tiger King's body, it had only managed to cut away a few strands of the fur. With him only being a Great Saint, there was a very low chance of being able to do a lot of damage to the Class 5 Magical Beast.

Soon after, the rest of the Flame Mercenaries attacked the tiger's body with their own Saint Weapons, but to no avail. Aside from Hu Po who had succeeded in cutting away a few strands of fur, no one else had been able to do any damage, but the tiger hadn't moved at all either.

Everyone's faces were already the color of ash, they had long since known that the strength of a Class 5 Magical Beast was tremendous, but it was only at that moment that they truly understood the extent of its strength. The defense of the Golden Fur Tiger King wasn't all that strong, it was just the fact that the Flame Mercenaries were too powerless to do anything major.

"Hou!" The Golden Fur Tiger King thundered as it swept its claw forward, catching the weakest member there, Yun Xuan, in the chest. His heart was immediately ripped into many pieces before the tiger disappeared once more before arriving at where Zhou Da

Kai stood.

“Pa!”

Another crisp sound rang through the area as Zhou Da Kai's body was sent flying far into the air by the tiger's tail. Like Xiao Dao, his chest had completely caved in as his inner organs were smashed as well.

“Brother!” Zhou Xiao Kai cried out in grief before turning back to the tiger in anger. With a snarl, he lifted his giant broadsword up in an attempt to cut into the beast. However to the tiger, Zhou Xiao Kai's attack was like a scratch to relieve an itch and would not harm it at all.

Against the Flame Mercenaries, the Golden Fur Tiger King was only using the most basics of attacks and bites. Despite that, the Flame Mercenaries had no ability to fight back at all, and in such a short moment, three people had already succumbed to the tiger, leaving only 5 people left to fight.

“Jian Chen, hurry up and go! Don't squander our valiant sacrifice.” Chang Ning Feng roared at Jian Chen who was still standing there.

“Jian Chen, what are you doing just standing there, hurry up and go! Remember, when you are stronger in the future, come back to the forest and kill this Golden Fur Tiger King and take its monster core!” Hu Po yelled before the maw of the tiger descended onto the top part of his body. With a heavy clamp, Hu Po's sturdy body was

split into two pieces as the tiger swallowed the top part.

Seeing the death of Hu Po, Jian Chen's body shook in grief as he looked at the remaining few members of the Flame mercenaries. Biting his lips in frustration, he controlled his Light Wind Sword back to his hand and immediately disappeared into the forest.

His heart knew that even if he were to stay behind, it would change nothing. He would die along with the others since a Class 5 Magical Beast was not something he could take on.

However, each one of the Flame Mercenaries were throwing away their lives in order to hinder the Golden Fur Tiger King just so Jian Chen could gain some time to escape. This was something that hurt Jian Chen far more than what the Tiger had done to him.

Entering the forest, Jian Chen forced himself to ignore the screams behind him as he forged onward with all of the speed he could muster. The grasses within the forest were many, and the shortest of grasses reached up to half his height. While the pain in Jian Chen's chest was unbearable, he was using the trees to boost himself forward as he flew at top speeds. Not only was this faster than walking on the ground, but he could avoid the swamplands below.

“Hou!”

No longer than ten breaths after Jian Chen had escaped into the forest, the loud roar of a tiger could be heard. It had appeared that the tiger was getting closer to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's face grew unsightly knowing that the Golden Fur Tiger King must have already disposed of the Flame Mercenaries and was resiliently pursuing after Jian Chen.

The Golden Fur Tiger King was extremely fast, even before Jian Chen could finish his thoughts, he could already faintly hear the tiger run through the forests, bringing a strong gale that flattened the nearby grass.

Jian Chen's face grew solemn as he thought; against a Class 5 Magical Beast, other than running away, there was no other way to win. And right now with the frightening speed of the Golden Fur Tiger King, even if he wanted to flee, he didn't have the power to. After all speed was the specialty of a tiger type of magical beast, and even more so for a Class 5 Magical Beast.

His Saint Force coiled around his body even faster, increasing Jian Chen's speed by triple the amount. Right now, he was going all out, he was going the fastest speed he could muster. At the same time, he was desperately trying to think of a counter measure, but even after a long time, Jian Chen couldn't think of any way.

Unless he were to come across someone who was at least at the Earth Saint Master level or another beast that could compete against the Golden Fur Tiger King, he would have no chance to escape. With the speed of the Golden Fur Tiger King, it wouldn't be long before it would overtake him.

However the chances of meeting a Earth Saint Master or another

magical beast on the same level as the Golden Fur Tiger King outside of the Magical Beast Mountain Range were slim to none.

“Hou!”

Another roar of the Golden Fur Tiger King came from behind. This time, when Jian Chen took a look behind him, he could see the large body of the tiger come within 20 meters of him.

Jian Chen’s face grew even more unsightly. Death, he did not fear. He had already died once, so dying again was not all that bad. Although, in this world, he still had people he was worried about and so he did not want to die in a way like this just yet.

Suddenly, the tiger transformed into a blur as it leapt towards Jian Chen.

Chapter 124: Strong Sword Qi

Jian Chen was still in midair without the ability to move in any other direction. With the Golden Fur Tiger King being so fast, there was no way for Jian Chen to dodge.

In a moment of desperation, Jian Chen turned around abruptly with both of his hands outwards. Lashing out against the head of the tiger, he borrowed the backwards force to push himself forward even faster, escaping from the bloody jaws of the tiger.

His legs staggered a bit as he landed on the ground. Before Jian Chen could even collect himself, a large force rammed into Jian Chen's chest. Not being able to even see what happened, Jian Chen flew backwards like a bullet as he was launched into the air once more. The clothes he had been wearing had already been ripped apart as his chest became one big indentation, making it seem as if his front was practically his back. Immediately, another strong amount of force circulated through his body, smashing against his inner organs in an instant.

Jian Chen flew 30 meters forward before finally smashing against a tree trunk and falling to the ground. His head knocked against a tree branch firmly as he fell to the ground unconscious.

The Golden Fur Tiger King had no intentions of letting Jian Chen go. Stamping toward Jian Chen, it opened its jaws wide in preparation to eat him.

Just as the tiger was on the verge of biting Jian Chen, wildly

flickering, weak glows of azure and violet rose from Jian Chen. Although the glows were quite faint, they were extremely eye catching at this time of night. As the twin glows appeared, they illuminated the entire forest and suddenly, a strong amount of Sword Qi enshrouded the area. But just as fast as it came, the Sword Qi quickly disappeared.

“Ao!”

At the same time, a desolate scream emerged from the mouth of the Golden Fur Tiger King as a rarely seen trace of fear appeared in its eyes. It was like the tiger had just been shocked, and it quickly retreated 10 meters back. Its bewildered tiger eyes stared at the unconscious Jian Chen. The previously crimson eyes became clear once more as its body began to tremble and shake.

Suddenly, blood began to spill out from the body of the Golden Fur Tiger King in a continuous flow. Its previously entirely golden fur was now stained a bloody red, its body covered with countless wounds. While the wounds were minute in size, they were deep and intersected with one another in countless ways. Even the tiger's head was not spared; the sight of it was rather pitiful.

The Golden Fur Tiger King at that moment didn't retain any of its majestic aura. Instead, it looked like it had just come out of a desperate battle with countless deep wounds.

The giant body of the tiger shook slightly as its eyes stared fearfully at the still unconscious Jian Chen. At that moment, with Jian Chen at the center, all of the grass and trees within 100 meters had been cut into countless pieces that floated in the air, filling the

sky with a powder that literally covered the sight of the sky from the earth within an 100 meters circumference. The sky was so densely covered that one's line of sight within would have been completely blocked off if one tried to look around.

The body of the tiger shivered more violently as it looked around itself in disbelief and shock. A Class 5 Magical Beast had a large amount of knowledge, and although it couldn't communicate like humans, it was still able to think. Its intelligence was equal to a human's, but at this moment, the Golden Fur Tiger King was feeling a tremendous amount of shock.

While a Class 5 Magical Beast could easily decimate anything within a 100 meter circumference, to be able to do it in an instant while reducing everything to a fine powder was something even a Class 6 Magical Beast would be unable to do. It was the strong amount of Sword Qi from before that had made the heart of the tiger tremble with fear. In a split second, the Sword Qi had caused countless deep wounds on the tiger's body, making it fear for its life.

A short moment later, the fine powder in the air fell to the ground, stacking up to become a layer of dust. Within the 100 meter circumference, there wasn't a single trace of any living organism but Jian Chen. Aside from the dust, there was nothing else in sight. Even the large tree that Jian Chen was slumped against had disappeared.

The beady eyes of the tiger looked around itself and let loose a terrified roar before running away with its tail tucked between its legs. Its speed was even faster than when it was chasing Jian Chen.

The area became absolutely silent after the tiger had left the area, leaving Jian Chen alone on the ground in an unconscious state. A fine layer of dust now covered his body..

The time quietly went by as the night sky silently retreated. The bright sun slowly rose into the air, emitting a bright ray of sunlight that warmed the earth. Shining down onto the area where no plant life existed, the sunny ground was almost like a carpet for the sleeping Jian Chen.

Perhaps because the lingering traces of a Class 5 Magical Beast could be felt, no other magical beast had approached the area that night. Even the most common of wild animals hadn't dared to come near, and so it wasn't clear if they simply hadn't been in the area, or if they hadn't dared to approach.

Suddenly, within the circle where no plant life existed, a pile of dust began to shake and tremble. The pile of dust fiercely shook and slid off as it gradually revealed a person underneath.

The figure that was hidden by the layer of dust the entire night was Jian Chen.

Brushing away the mysterious powder on him, Jian Chen slowly opened his eyes only to be greeted by the azure sky overhead. Just as Jian Chen wanted to lift his head, his mind was suddenly jump started, reminding him of the state he was in. Immediately feeling the intense pain racking through his body, Jian Chen couldn't help but yell out.

Weakly lying on the ground, Jian Chen sucked in a few deep breaths. With his spirit, Jian Chen was already aware of what type of condition his body was in, even without actually engaging in an inner body inspection. Each of his internal organs had suffered from serious injuries that were lighter than when he had been right outside Wake City. However to other people, injuries like this would've been fatal.

His chest was already a mutilated mess to the point where even his chest bones could be seen after being smashed apart by the Golden Fur Tiger King.

Just then, Jian Chen thought about the attack he had suffered from the claws of the Golden Fur Tiger King before falling unconscious, and his head quivered in memory for a second. But when he took a look around, only emptiness greeted him. The perimeter around him was a zone of nothingness, without even a single plant. There was only a fine layer of dust covering the floor, and there weren't any traces of the Golden Fur Tiger King.

Chapter 125: Hey, Listen!

Seeing the area around him, Jian Chen was in shock as he continued to look around vacantly. “Strange, where is this? Where is the Golden Fur Tiger King? Was I saved by someone?”

Jian Chen was lying on the ground as he slowly looked around. His heart had quickly calmed down, but his mind was already thinking back to when the Flame Mercenaries had tried to protect him while he ran; they had sacrificed their lives to stall the Golden Fur Tiger King.

As that thought ran through his mind, Jian Chen’s heart began to hurt once more. Even though he had not even known the Flame Mercenaries for over a month, they had shared a joyous friendship. Although the friendship was not very deep, in their final moments, each one of the Flame Mercenary members had still laid down their lives to act as an hold the tiger back and give Jian Chen more time to escape. Even though the major reason was because they knew they wouldn’t be able to run away from a Class 5 Magical Beast anyways, this was still a very heavy emotional blow to Jian Chen.

“Uncle Kendall, Deere, Kabolds, Chang Ning Feng, Hu Po, Zhou Da Kai, Zhou Xiao Kai, Xiao Dao and Yun Xuan, don’t worry. When I have enough strength, I will definitely come and take revenge for you all; I will personally kill and behead the Golden Fur Tiger King myself.” Jian Chen swore as an intense amount of killing intent radiated from him.

Breathing out deeply, Jian Chen forced himself to calm down as

he surveyed his surroundings once more. Jian Chen had his doubts about whether or not the Golden Fur Tiger King had run away, since this place seemed to extremely different from the place he had been in before he had fallen unconscious.

“What place is this? Exactly who saved me?” Jian Chen doubtfully wondered as he continued to examine his surroundings.

“Forget it, now isn’t the time to think about this. Healing my injuries is my utmost priority right now.” Shaking himself away from the distracting thoughts, he began to use the light Saint Force from the World Essence to heal himself.

The bizarre energy from the World Essence quickly began to gather around Jian Chen, and after a certain amount had gathered, the energy enwrapping Jian Chen’s body turned a milky-white color.

The light Saint Force continuously entered Jian Chen’s body and filled his wounds, causing them to slowly heal over time.

After four hours, Jian Chen’s spirit had finally run out, and he had no other choice but to stop. Although his wounds weren’t fully healed, they would no longer impede any basic motor functions.

Dispersing the remaining light Saint Force, Jian Chen slowly crawled up from the ground. Taking off his ruined clothing, he brought out a new pair of clothes from within his Space Belt. It was only then that Jian Chen was fully aware of just how much powder was around him.

Slowly bending down to the ground, he scooped up a handful of powder. Not only did it feel cold, but there was a moist feeling to it, and when he smelled it there was a small hint of plant life.

His right hand kneaded the powder between his fingers as an astonished expression formed in his eyes. “Could this be the powdered dust of a plant?” He said to himself while looking at the 100 meter circumference of emptiness around himself. While there was powder everywhere inside the circle, there was only tall grass outside.

Seeing this scene, Jian Chen’s body lightly shuddered. He couldn’t believe the thought that had just run through his mind.

“Could all of the grass in this area have been reduced to dust?”

At this thought, Jian Chen couldn’t help but feel surprised. He didn’t know what had happened while he was unconscious, but he knew that reducing every single piece plant life into fine powder within this area was an extremely difficult task to do. Controlling this powerful energy alone wouldn’t have been an easy task.

“Really, what happened here?” Jian Chen wondered with a large amount of doubt and curiosity. Not wishing to stay there any longer, Jian Chen used the sun as his compass and began to move off in the direction leading out of the forest. Jian Chen did not want hurt his mind thinking about whatever had happened while he was unconscious. In general, he only felt fortuitous that he had survived the ordeal.

Jian Chen's injuries weren't completely healed, so he was very cautious as he traveled. In order to avoid any magical beast, he was going quite slowly.

After traveling for two days, he finally made it out of the Magical Beast Mountain Range. In addition, all the wounds on his body were fully healed.

Jian Chen walked aimlessly through the dense forests with a serious expression. The Flame Mercenaries had entered with 10 people when they had first entered, but only 1 person remained when exiting. Aside from Jian Chen, the other 9 mercenaries would forever stay within the Magical Beast Mountain Range, whether they had skeletons or not.

At that moment, a group of 7 mercenaries walked within distance of Jian Chen. Based on their direction, they were heading into the Magical Beast Mountain Range. Within the group was a single 20 year old youth who looked extremely arrogant. Around him were 6, 40 year old males who, judging by their appearances, were protecting the youth in the middle.

The 7 of them clearly saw Jian Chen, but they didn't pay him any mind.

As the 7 mercenaries brushed past Jian Chen, one of them suddenly spoke out arrogantly, "Kid, stand stop right there." It was the youth that didn't seem much older than Jian Chen.

Jian Chen seemingly didn't hear the voice, and he continued to walk down the road with a heavy expression.

Seeing that Jian Chen was ignoring him, the youth couldn't help but get angry. He coldly glared at the retreating figure of Jian Chen and shouted once more, "The kid over there wearing a sack for clothes, are your ears working? Did you not hear my words?" The youth's anger was rampant and his expression was brimming with arrogance.

Jian Chen's figure paused as he lifted his head to look at the youth and spoke calmly, "Are you talking to me?"

"No shit! If I wasn't talking to you, who else would I be talking to? There's no one else here!" The youth rudely retorted. He didn't realize how contradictory his words were: weren't he and the 6 mercenaries with him also people?

Hearing the words of the youth, the other 6 mercenaries' muscles all twitched. They had wanted to laugh, but none of them dared to.

Jian Chen raised an eyebrow and spoke in a low voice, "If you have anything to say, hurry up and say it." Having just experienced the unfortunate accident regarding the Flame Mercenaries, Jian Chen wasn't in a good mood, and even his speaking pattern had changed quite a bit.

The youth's eyes flashed with indignation. Seeing Jian Chen speak to him so impolitely made him extremely angry.

“Kid, let me ask you, did you or did you not come from the Magical Beast Mountain Range?” The pitch in the youth’s voice had already gone up a few notches as he stared at Jian Chen in an unfriendly way.

Jian Chen’s eyes flashed coldly as he growled, “So what if I did?”

The youth revealed a wicked smile, “That’s perfect. I need to go there to cultivate, so you will lead the way for your lord. And if I’m happy with you, you’ll earn a reward.”

Chapter 126: Tianxiong Clan

Hearing this, Jian Chen's already poor mood grew nastier as a violent mood instantly arose from within his heart. His previously disorderly and expressionless eyes grew cold as he stared angrily at the youth. His eyes seemed to be able to shoot sharp swords as he growled, "Scram! What qualifications do you have to order me to guide you anywhere?" Jian Chen's tone carried a strong, murderous aura.

The moment Jian Chen finished speaking, the other 6 mercenaries all gasped as their gazes uniformly locked onto Jian Chen.

Having been the target of Jian Chen's powerful and piercing glare, the youth's heart couldn't help but tremble with a wave of cowardliness, and he took a step backwards. Soon afterwards though, the youth realized he had momentarily lost self-control, and anger washed over his cowering heart. As a noble figure, having a no-named mercenary barely older than him intimidate him in such a way was a humiliation that would never be washed away.

Glaring angrily at Jian Chen, the youth stepped forward and pointed at Jian Chen, yelling, "Smelly brat, what did you say to me? Why don't you try saying it one more time."

Jian Chen's frosty glare swept over to the 6 mercenaries surrounding the youth. At a single glance, it was obvious what their strength levels were; one of them was a Peak Saint Master, two were Low Saint Masters, and the other three were Peak Great

Saints. Compared to the Flame Mercenaries, the difference in strength was huge.

“Take a hike!” Jian Chen growled harshly. Even though he had already figured out from the amount of bodyguards around the youth that he was the son of an influential family, Jian Chen was by himself at the moment, and he wasn’t afraid of any type of power. To him, this youth was only another inconvenience.

Although he wasn’t very comfortable with this annoyance, there was no way Jian Chen was about to apologize to this person.

The youth looked at Jian Chen with a dark expression as he commanded the 6 mercenaries, “Capture him for me.”

“Yes, young master.” One man answered as he moved toward Jian Chen like an arrow with his arms outstretched. This mercenary had a Peak Great Saint level of strength after 30 years of cultivation. To that mercenary, Jian Chen was only a youngster whose strength couldn’t be that great. If Jian Chen were a Peak Saint, he’d already be labelled as a genius. But with the mercenary being a Peak Great Saint, catching Jian Chen wouldn’t be any trouble at all.

Jian Chen’s eyes flashed coldly as he effortlessly dodged the other mercenary’s hand. “You aren’t strong enough to touch me.” Normally, Jian Chen wouldn’t speak with such disdain and harshness, but Jian Chen had been severely affected by the bitter end of the Flame Mercenaries. Thus, he was no longer feeling as well mannered as before. This youth’s arrogant attitude made Jian Chen’s already bad mood reach an exploding point. Deep in his

heart, there was already a strong urge to kill.

Hearing these humiliating words from Jian Chen, this middle aged man's face became unsightly; with his Peak Great Saint strength, he would undoubtedly beat this 20 year old kid easily. After being ruthlessly humiliated by this kid, he had lost face in front of all of his companions, as well as the rich kid who could affect his future prospects. If he didn't teach this brat a good lesson, he wouldn't dare to ever lift his head among his peers again.

The man decided to not hold back any longer. He materialized his sword in his hand and fed his inner Saint Force to it, causing it to shine brightly.

“Arrogant child, why don't you find out for yourself if I'm qualified or not to go up against you!” The man bellowed as he swung his sword at Jian Chen's shoulder

With a cold snort, Jian Chen instantly materialized his Light Wind Sword and stabbed it forward. A shining, silver ray of light followed the blade as it moved.

“Pshh!”

Before the middle aged man's sword could reach Jian Chen, the Light Wind Sword had already stabbed into the man's throat.

The man's entire body suddenly went rigid as his eyes slowly

looked at the area where Jian Chen had stabbed him with the slender sword. With one final look of disbelief, the man's eyes slowly lost their luster and clouded over as he toppled down to the ground with a grieved face.

Seeing their middle aged companion be killed by Jian Chen, the other 5 mercenaries protecting the youth were amazed. Their eyebrows raised upward momentarily before they materialized their Saint Weapons, seemingly watching Jian Chen warily as a great threat.

The youth couldn't believe his eyes as he looked at the fallen man next to Jian Chen. Pointing his finger, he tried to show his strength even though he was inwardly frightened by saying, "Y-y-you dare kill my guard? Do-don't you know who I am? Are you tired of li-living?" Although the youth and Jian Chen weren't all that different in age, the youth had grown up sheltered, and so he didn't have any experiences, nor had he lived through any hardships. So the moment he saw blood being spilled on the ground, his cowardice immediately showed itself.

Although he had used his clan's power to bully many people, those people were weaklings that didn't dare to rebel against him. Thus, his life had always progressed smoothly, and he had always looked down on others. However, he had never seen a person like Jian Chen, who was so blunt and killed people as if it was an everyday occurrence. The youth that had never seen such a scene was absolutely intimidated by Jian Chen's methods.

Suddenly, another sturdy mercenary walked forward and politely gestured at him, "Dear junior, we are members of the

Tianxiong clan, and this is the young master. The matters that just happened were our fault, so I would like to apologize to you here. I hope that you can just look past this issue.” This mercenary that spoke was neither servile nor overbearing.

Jian Chen’s icy cold eyes stared at the group in front of him as his entire body radiated killing intent. Walking closer to them, he frigidly said, “Then come. If you guys can escape from my hand today, you will naturally be spared.”

Chapter 127: Show No Quarter

Jian Chen's icy cold eyes stared at the group in front of him as he radiated killing intent all over. Stepping closer to them, he spoke out, "Then fight, whoever can escape from my hand today will be spared."

The 5 mercenaries' faces all hardened as the previous one that spoke continued to say, "Dear friend, you really don't know what's good for oneself. If it were not for the fact that our goal is to help escort the young master to the Magical Beast Mountain Range to cultivate and that the clan leader told us not to make trouble on the way, then this would have been a difficult matter to resolve. Not only that, but do you really think that you can kill all of us? Our Tianxiong clan may not be the strongest, but we aren't an easy target to bully either."

What the middle aged mercenary had said made the youth believe in the strength of his clan and strengthened his confidence. "That's right, our Tianxiong clan isn't that easy to bully, within Wake City, there are no other clans that aren't afraid of our Tianxiong clan. Kid, you've already killed one of my guardsmen, come back with me to accept your punishment, or be prepared to leave your life here."

Hearing the youth beside him, the middle aged man couldn't help but scowl as if to say to himself, "Idiot.". While the Tianxiong clan was strong within Wake City, that was the only place.

Even within Wake City, the Tianxiong clan was in a dangerous position. Despite Wake City being a Third Class city, the amount of

clans that lived within it totaled around 20 in number. The Tianxiong clan looked to be an independent clan, but it was actually a deception. The middle aged man knew clearly that while the Tianxiong clan looked to be impressive beyond belief, they were already a thorn to the side of every other clan. After all, a tall tree received the most wind, and many of the clans that were no weaker than the Tianxiong clan were watching them attentively. The moment an opportunity arose, they would strike without hesitation and divide the Tianxiong clan's territory amongst themselves. The Tianxiong clan had secretly amassed around a third of the city's power, and at such a juicy piece of meat like this, all the other clans were very envious.

Also, because of the close proximity with the Magical Beast Mountain Range, the amount of people that flowed into the city was enormous. About 99% of people that frequently came into the city were mercenaries with all sorts of powers and influence. It could even be said that the city was [filled with dragons and fishes](#). While it looked like the Tianxiong clan had many special connections and just as many permanently stationed mercenaries within their pockets, there were just as many clans and people they could not afford to offend or else risk being destroyed.

Dragons and fishes means to have the dishonest mixed in with the honest people.

Seeing how Jian Chen had easily killed a Peak Great Saint with such a fast sword stroke, the middle aged mercenary was extremely surprised. With a sword stroke that fast, even he would need to use his entire strength to be able to dodge it. Thanks to this man's experience, these two factors were all he needed in order to establish that Jian Chen probably had a strong background. There was most likely an extremely strong master supporting Jian Chen, otherwise, how could such a young person be so strong? So for that

reason, the middle aged man had tried to resolve the issue in order for the Tianxiong clan to have one less issue.

Just as Jian Chen heard the Tianxiong clan's young master say these things, his eyes flashed. Without saying a single word, his body began to move and he quickly charged at the youth. The Light Wind Sword in his hand became a silver glow that pierced outward like lightning, with its target being the youth's throat.

Although Jian Chen understood that this youth was Tianxiong clan's major boss, never in his life had he been afraid of any power or influence.

Seeing Jian Chen unexpectedly act with such resolution, the middle aged man's expression suddenly changed. With a fierce look in his eyes, a large sword materialized in his hand. The man tightly gripped the sword hilt and waved it sharply. The long sword shrieked as it sliced through the air and was thrust toward Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword.

Although the middle aged man had guessed that there there was a high possibility that Jian Chen had some type of major background behind him, he was also not one to be afraid of such things.

The trajectory for Jian Chen's sword suddenly changed. He lifted the blade, and took the initiative to meet the middle aged man's approaching blade.

“Ding!”

The sound of steel meeting steel rang out as Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword and the middle aged man's large two-handed sword collided in midair. When the two sides came into contact, a powerful energy rippled through middle aged man's sword directly into Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword.

Jian Chen's expression grew solemn. His right arm nimbly controlled the Light Wind Sword to shake off the powerful energy that the man's sword had released. At the same time, he pressed his feet into the ground and instantly appeared behind the the man. Displaying all of the advantages his fast sword had, he began to openly attack the man with a typhoon of concentrated attacks.

Jian Chen's strength pretty much grew every day. The current him was no longer at a disadvantage when facing the middle aged man, who was at Peak Saint Master level, head-on. Of course, the most important reason for that was because the middle aged man wasn't really a power-type warrior. He was only a bit stronger than Jian Chen in terms of Saint Force.

As the two faced off, the other four bodyguards also began to quickly fall back with Tianxiong clan's leader wrapped tightly in protection within their circle.

Within a short breath's time, the middle aged man and Jian Chen had already exchanged dozens of blows. The more he attacked, the more fearful the middle aged man became. Jian Chen's sword was really too fast; not only was every attack from the sword incomparably fast, but each one was also fatal. It looked as if the swordplay was messy, but it seemed to contain some kind of

profound mystery that the middle aged man couldn't comprehend. Each stroke within Jian Chen's move was seamless, and the man couldn't find a single fault within it despite having a superior level of strength compared to Jian Chen. The two were at a standstill, but as the fight grew longer, so did his disadvantages. Since Jian Chen's sword was so fast, dodging each blow was consuming too much energy. Although it wasn't too much of a problem right now, but if time went on any longer, he would suffer a defeat sooner or later, and since Jian Chen's sword was like lightning, the margin of time he had to defend himself was slowly shrinking along with his ability to retaliate.

“Hale, Francis, come and help me. Tian Feng, go protect the young master and escort him out.”

Hearing the middle aged man's words, the bodyguards protecting the youth changed expressions. They exchanged glances, their expressions hardening. They both clearly understood the strength of the middle aged man who was currently fighting Jian Chen. They hadn't ever imagined that even he, as one at the Peak Saint Master level, would have to call for reinforcements. This really shocked them; they hadn't thought that Jian Chen, who didn't even look 20 years old, could have such strength.

Chapter 128: Forest Fight

The four bodyguards immediately split up, and two people began to charge at Jian Chen with their Saint Weapons raised. They quickly entered the battle, and began to attack Jian Chen together with the Peak Saint Master strength middle aged man.

The bodyguards that had just joined were the troop's only two Primary Saint Masters. With their entry, the pressure on Jian Chen immediately increased by a lot. However, with just his Profound Steps and his fast sword, he was still evenly matched with the three Saint Masters, and showed no signs of being at a disadvantage.

The youth also felt a trace of fear. Under the protection of the other two Peak Great Saint bodyguards, he quickly left the area, his figure soon disappeared without a trace.

Although Jian Chen sensed the youth's departure, he didn't try to chase after him. The three Saint Master bodyguards in front of him definitely wouldn't allow him to leave and harm the young master of the Tianxiong clan.

Jian Chen fought an intense battle against those three Tianxiong Xiong clan bodyguards in the forest. A lot of the surrounding fauna was affected by the battle, and soon, the entire area had become a mess. Quite a few thick and sturdy trees had even been cut in half.

Once again dodging the large sword swinging toward him from the side, Jian Chen launched a fierce attack at the Primary Saint

Master, preparing to break through him.

As the sound of the sword splitting the air rang out, Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword suddenly turned into a blur as it quickly pierced toward the Primary Saint Master in the form of countless blades. This forced the man to panic, and caused him to have no time to reform his defense. Eventually, Jian Chen managed to form holes in the man's defense. Taking advantage of one of these holes, the Light Wind Sword abruptly trembled as a silver flash of lightning pierced forward at a speed that was somewhat faster than before. Before the Primary Saint Master could even react, the Light Wind Sword had buried itself deep into the man's throat, the blood-soaked point poking out from the other side of the neck.

“Hale!”

Seeing the man be stabbed through the throat, the other two people's expressions suddenly changed as they shouted out in a tone mixed with grief.

Jian Chen's arm didn't pause at all. Immediately after the Light Wind Sword pierced through the man's throat, he pulled it right out, and instantly shifted his attention to the other two. His body flickered as he silently appeared in front of the Primary Saint Master without a trace, just like a demon. The Light Wind Sword once again flashed like silver lightning as it was thrust forward.

The middle aged man's expression completely changed. He immediately lifted his Saint Weapon and held it in front of his throat when he saw the Light Wind Sword heading towards him. Suddenly, the speeding Light Wind Sword dropped downward,

seemingly evading the large sword protecting the man's body, and began to pierce toward the man at a sharp incline from below his Saint Weapon.

The middle aged man was unable to react at all to the Light Wind Sword's sudden change. Eventually, his eyes were filled with disbelief as the sword deeply pierced through his throat.

At that moment, a biting cold wind blew past behind Jian Chen. A large, three inch wide, two-handed sword slashed through the air with a powerful amount of Saint Force. Before it even reached Jian Chen, the wind pressure generated from it had already caused Jian Chen's clothes to stick tightly against his back.

Feeling that chilly wind, Jian Chen immediately pulled out his sword from the man's throat, and turned around to guard his front with his sword, without any hesitation.

“Clang!”

The large two-handed sword containing the powerful Saint Force fiercely collided with the Light Wind Sword. The amount of energy it generated forced Jian Chen back a few steps.

After sending Jian Chen backward with attack after attack, the middle aged man's gaze shifted to the bodyguard that had already been pierced through the throat by Jian Chen. The crimson blood was currently surging outward like a fountain from the throat, as life began to gradually fade from his eyes, his expression was still frozen in disbelief. A moment later, his entire body slowly

collapsed to the ground.

With reddening eyes, the man glared at Jian Chen fiercely like a bloodthirsty, ferocious beast. He exploded in anger, “Even if I die today, I have to kill and behead you as revenge for my brothers.” Powerful Saint Force began to gather on the large sword in the middle aged man’s hands. He raised the sword tip up, and with a heavy push of his feet off the ground, he quickly charged at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen’s gaze hardened as he locked onto the middle aged man. His grip on the Light Wind Sword couldn’t help but tighten; he had already seen the middle aged man’s plans to kill him. Faced with this Peak Saint Master that was unafraid of death, Jian Chen was faced with some trouble. After all, his current strength was only at the middle Great Saint level. The difference between that and a Peak Saint Master was still a pretty large gap.

The layer of thick, hazy white light that surrounded the blade was evidently more dense than it had been before. Heavy yet penetrating Sword Qi was faintly released from the Light Wind Sword. Just as the middle aged man was about to charge forward, Jian Chen’s right shoulder suddenly jolted, and the Light Wind Sword in his hand split the air as it pierced outward. The needle-thin, silver colored Sword Qi was shot out from the sword point, and sped toward the middle aged man at a speed that made it hard to track with the naked eye.

Seeing this slender yet dense amount of Sword Qi, the middle aged man didn’t dare to be careless. The sword flew at him so quickly that he didn’t have time to dodge, so without any better

options, the man could only release all of the Saint Force he had left into his sword as he swung it downwards.

The moment the man's giant two handed sword made contact with Jian Chen's Sword Qi enhanced sword, the two handed sword easily scattered apart the Sword Qi after some minor obstructions. At the same time, Jian Chen suddenly moved toward the man a few meters in front of him in a way that made him resemble a blur with his Light Wind Sword ready to attack.

The middle aged man immediately retracted the large sword to block Jian Chen's attack. Afterward, the two began to fight intensely once more.

In his previous world, Jian Chen's sword play had already reached the pinnacle, and even though this middle aged man was stronger than him, the man's understanding of the ways of the sword was merely a drop in a bucket compared to him. His sword was at a speed thought to be inconceivable, and the way he used it had already reached a level of perfection. Against the stronger, middle aged man, he would not be able to go against Jian Chen's sword for much longer since his defense wouldn't be able to keep up.

Jian Chen began to attack every part of the man's body with quick precision. Using his Light Wind Sword, it was already like a blur that was impossible to see the blade move. And with it, Jian Chen continued to quickly attack the man to the point where resisting was becoming a challenging task.

In addition, every attack the Light Wind Sword made was fatal.

This forced the middle aged man to lose his chances of heavily injuring Jian Chen at the stake of getting wounded himself. At the moment, the middle aged man extremely regretted his actions. At the same time, he bitterly hated the Tianxiong Xiong clan's young master. Originally, this journey had been completely incident free. Unfortunately, this young master of the Tianxiong Xiong clan who didn't know the difference between heaven and earth had purposely decided to provoke this fiend in front of him. Innocently getting into some trouble was fine, but in the end, it had harmed them to the point where two of the brothers he'd known for dozens of years had died. In addition, he himself was now stuck in a dangerous situation. He most likely wouldn't even have a chance to live after today.

For a while, the two people fought like flashes of lightning. Eventually, the middle aged man was unable to block in time, and Jian Chen's viper-like Light Wind Sword stabbed him in the heart.

Chapter 129: Trouble At The Door

Looking at the sword piercing towards his heart with sluggish eyes, the middle aged man couldn't believe what he was seeing. Being defeated by a brat barely past the age of 20 years old with a strength that wasn't even at the Peak Great Saint level, was truly humiliating.

Because of the arrogant talk of the Tianxiong clan's young master, his 50 years of cultivation had been laid to waste by a 20 year old youth; out in the middle of nowhere, his life was destroyed in a single moment. Just thinking about this fact made the man nearly cry out with grief. As his life essence slowly escaped from him, the man's bright and clear eyes slowly clouded over and rolled back into his skull as his sturdy body fell to the ground.

Jian Chen slowly retracted his Light Wind Sword. Blood flowed down the blade as if it were alive; slowly gathering at the tip before falling to the ground, drop by drop. After a few battles, the uneven dirt ground had become wet with blood.

Jian Chen slowly caught his breath. Attacking two Primary Saint Masters and a Peak Saint Master consumed quite a bit of Jian Chen's energy. Faced with three opponents whose strength all surpassed his own, Jian Chen had already made an all-out effort. If it weren't for the fact that he had cultivated for a while, increasing his base strength as a Middle Great Saint by quite a bit, he most likely would've spent a much longer time on trying to kill these 3 Saint Masters.

However, after killing the three people, Jian Chen's grief from the deaths of Captain Kendall and the others had abated quite a bit.

Jian Chen's gaze indifferently swept across the three corpses, before finally falling onto their Space Belts. After some hesitation, he slowly advanced forward to retrieve the belts and examine their contents.

Because he had consumed over a hundred times more monster cores than the average person in his cultivation, Jian Chen required a great amount of them; moreover, Jian Chen clearly didn't have enough money to purchase such an extensive amount of monster cores. That's why the thing he wanted to acquire the most were monster cores. It was only possible for him to gain them by killing magical beasts or by taking them from corpses. Besides, taking items from a dead person was an extremely common occurrence in Tian Yuan Continent. After all, 30% or more of the fights that happened on Tian Yuan Continent were because people were seeking another party's items.

After removing the 3 Space Belts, Jian Chen inspected their contents. Although these 3 were Saint Masters, it was clear that they weren't wealthy. Aside from some everyday products and camping tools, they really didn't have anything else. In the end, Jian Chen was only able to fish out some 10 Purple and Gold coins, 15 Class 2 Monster Cores, and 5 Class 3 Monster Cores.

Without any hesitation, Jian Chen stored the monster cores into his own Space Belt. His gaze shifted back to the 10 Purple and Gold coins and he hesitated for a bit before finally taking those as well. Although it wasn't a large amount of money, to commoners it was

still quite a bit of wealth. Just throwing it out here was a waste, and rather a pity.

After storing everything, Jian Chen tossed the 3 Space Belts to one side. Without bothering to clean up the corpses, he directly left the area.

By the time he had returned to Wake City, the sky had already darkened. After eating some food at the hotel, Jian Chen requested a room and went to sleep.

Because Jian Chen had only requested a normal room, its layout was extremely simple. It had a single wooden table, a few chairs, and a bed. Aside from these, there was nothing else present. However, the place was extremely neat and tidy; one could even say it was completely spotless.

That night, the shining full moon suspended high up in the sky emitted bright rays of silver moonlight, filling the entire pitch-black sky with a faint silver color. Even the scattered, thin clouds could be seen clearly.

Jian Chen moved his chair to the window and sat there with his head raised. He looked up at that round moon emitting a bright glow while deep in thought. Perhaps it was more appropriate to say that he was in a sluggish daze.

Jian Chen was constantly recalling the past 2 days in his mind. The Flame Mercenary Group had been hunted down by the Class 5 magical beast Golden Fur Tiger King, and eventually, the members

had sacrificed their lives to hold the beast back, shielding Jian Chen so that he could flee. Although two days had already passed, and the grief from the deaths of the Flame Mercenaries had faded quite a bit, Jian Chen was still unable to forget the scene. That scenario had been branded deeply into the depths of his soul, and he would most likely never forget it for the rest of his life.

It could be said that he and the Flame Mercenaries were strangers that had come together by chance. Although during the past few days, everyone's relationships had grown quite close, they had chosen to die for the sake of covering for Jian Chen and letting him flee. Although there were also some selfish motives for this, they all understood that faced by the pursuit of the Golden Fur Tiger King, they had absolutely no way of running away. Despite knowing this, their actions had still impacted Jian Chen's heart by quite a lot.

“Captain Kendall, what is your greatest wish....”

“My greatest wish is to make the Flame Mercenary Group become the number one mercenary group in the continent....”

A scene appeared in Jian Chen's mind as he sat next to the window. His originally lifeless eyes gradually recovered their vigor, tightly clenching his fists as he murmured, “Captain Kendall, you were the strongest one in the Flame Mercenary group. I had never imagined that back then, you'd be the first to depart.”

“During these past few days, you were always the one that had cared for me the most. Now that you're gone, your life's greatest

wish can no longer become true. In that case, let me make your wish come true in your stead. I, Jian Chen, swear that I will spend my life trying my utmost to make the Flame Mercenary Group the number one mercenary group in the Tian Yuan Continent.” Jian Chen said resolutely.

Jian Chen untied the Space Belt that Captain Kendall had given him. He stared at the belt in his hand in a trance as the memories of the words that Kendall had imparted to him when handing him this belt replayed in his mind.

“Jian Chen, don’t refuse. If we can’t leave this forest alive, then our families will all be under your care. If we all die here, then their lives will become incomparably painful. Whether or not my parents, my wife, and even my one child will be able to live through the days after my death will all depend on you.”

Jian Chen let out a long breath. He suddenly felt extremely guilty; Captain Kendall had given this Space Belt to him before his death, entrusting Jian Chen with his family’s wellbeing. However, even now, Jian Chen still didn’t know what the names of those in Captain Kendall’s family were, or even where they lived. How was he supposed to act?

Just then, Jian Chen’s heart suddenly became filled with worry. If Captain Kendall had entrusted Jian Chen to take care of his family, Jian Chen guessed that Captain Kendall’s family was definitely extremely impoverished. After losing Captain Kendall, their pillar of support, how could his family possibly live the rest of their lives happily?

When thinking of how incomparably difficult Kendall's family's lives would be from now, Jian Chen's heart fell into panic. He wanted to find Kendall's family as soon as possible, and give them whatever Captain Kendall had entrusted Jian Chen with in order to bless them with happy lives.

Jian Chen sat by the window for the latter half of the night, before eventually returning to his bed to cultivate. Right now, Jian Chen needed to grow stronger, stronger, and even stronger.

The night was calm, and it quickly passed by without incident. The next morning, Jian Chen, who had been submerged in cultivation, suddenly opened his eyes. He didn't know why, but he suddenly felt a bad premonition in his heart.

Jian Chen got out of bed and walked up to the window to look outside. After a single glance, Jian Chen's expression abruptly darkened. The outside of the hotel had been surrounded by hundreds of people wearing white robes. Every single one of them were identically dressed. From this, it could be seen that they represented a single power. Jian Chen unexpectedly discovered that in the middle of the group of people was the young master of the Tianxiong clan that had escaped from him yesterday.

Chapter 130: Trapped In The Restaurant

Seeing the group of people outside the restaurant, Jian Chen's expression immediately hardened. Since the moment he saw the young master of the Tianxiong clan standing in the middle, he had already guessed that the reason these people had gathered here so early in the morning was because of him.

After all, yesterday he had not only committed an offense against the Tianxiong clan's young master, but also killed three of the clan's strong bodyguards. In short, he had already earned the hatred of the Tianxiong clan yesterday. After all, Peak Saint Masters still counted as very good hands in a remote place like Wake City. No matter in which clan in Wake City one was, Peak Saint Masters all had pretty high positions.

If a clan lost a Peak Saint Master, as well as two Primary Saint Masters, for no reason and didn't regain face, the clan's military power in the city would undoubtedly decrease by quite a lot. This was extremely important to a clan's future.

Right now, the entire restaurant had been surrounded by the Tianxiong clan. Wanting to leave here without anyone knowing was impossible. Jian Chen could only helplessly leave his room and walk toward the main entrance of the restaurant. Although he was getting closer to his doom, and the opposite party had hundreds of people as well as some strong experts, there wasn't a single trace of panic or concern in Jian Chen's expression. He looked just as calm as he normally did.

When Jian Chen walked downstairs and arrived at the

restaurant's lower floor, he discovered that there were already many people gathered there. It was currently the peak hours of breakfast, and all of the tables in the lobby were filled with bowls and dishes emitting the fragrant aroma of meat. However, not a single person was sitting at those tables and enjoying the bountiful breakfast. Instead, they were all swearing as they stood up from their seats and slowly began to walk outside the door with indignant expressions.

“That Tianxiong clan is too damn arrogant. I was happily eating here before they suddenly commanded all of us to leave. Whatever random crap you guys do has nothing to do with us. We're just eating our own meals, it's not like we'd hinder you.”

“That's right, that Tianxiong clan really thinks of themselves as Wake City's number 1 clan. They've become undisciplined and out of control even though they're just a small clan. When they encounter those famous experts in Tian Yuan Continent, they'll be eradicated with just a slight stretch of a finger.”

Most of the people eating in the restaurant were mercenaries. Some of the more short tempered and braver ones grumbled as they left, but they said their complaints quite softly, as if murmuring to themselves. Not a single person dared to say it out loud. Despite this, the soldiers were all at a certain level of strength, and could hear the murmurs loud and clear.

The majority of the few merchants in the restaurant didn't dare to show any signs of dissatisfaction in their expressions. They obediently left their seats and hurriedly walked out of the restaurant. Only the merchants that had certain amounts of

strength were left. They all had expressions of extreme dissatisfaction; they were pretty much all foreigners, and although they weren't afraid of the Tianxiong clan, a strong dragon couldn't suppress a snake. It was clear that they wouldn't go against the Tianxiong clan over such a minor thing and stir up more trouble for themselves. Thus, they eventually all walked out of the restaurant as well.

There were four white robed middle aged men guarding the restaurant entrance. Their powerful, electric-like gazes unceasingly scanned the people leaving. Although they had also heard a few of the mercenaries curse the Tianxiong clan in dissatisfaction, they didn't dare to say a single word, and acted as if they hadn't heard the curses. Quite a few of the mercenaries in the restaurant were foreigners that had some level of power backing them up, or were a part of a mercenary group. Although the Tianxiong clan proclaimed itself as a leading clan in Wake City, they didn't want to upset any outside powers because some of them were so powerful that even the Tianxiong clan couldn't afford to provoke them.

Soon, the restaurant's customers had all left. In such a large restaurant, the only ones remaining were some servants standing there in a daze, at a loss of what to do. The restaurant owner also stood to one side with an expression of concern as he stared unblinkingly at the vacant restaurant. His face revealed the pain that he was unable to voice out; quite a bit of income had disappeared.

At that moment, the only one still in the restaurant aside from the owner and the servants was Jian Chen. Even the customers that had been resting on the upper floor had been forcefully

oppressed and brought out by the restaurant's servants.

Jian Chen sat on a chair with a leisurely expression, staring with interest at the group of Tianxiong clan's people still holding fort outside the restaurant. His expression was completely relaxed. Although Jian Chen seemed to be carefree on the outside, he had actually put up his guard ages ago. After all, this time they had arrived with ill intentions; moreover, he clearly sensed that there were quite a few powerful experts among these people.

At that moment, the young master of the Tianxiong clan that Jian Chen had encountered yesterday in Magical Beast Mountain range walked into the restaurant with the protection of a large group of people. As soon as he entered the restaurant, the young master's gaze fell onto the sneering Jian Chen sitting on the chair. A sinister look flashed in the young master's eyes.

"Brat, I didn't expect that you'd still be here today. Yesterday, I let you off. Today, I'll pull you out from your roots." The young master said with a cold smile. He looked at Jian Chen and said, "What about it, are you scared? Do you regret it now?"

The group of Tianxiong clan members standing behind the youth all sharply looked at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen lightly snorted in disdain. His gaze swept across the crowd of people standing behind the young master as he said, "Don't tell me that you think this amount of people is enough to scare me? You're being a bit too self-confident."

The young master of the Tianxiong clan sneered back as he said, “You’re even more arrogant than I thought. However, I can’t help but admire your ability to talk big. Even at a moment like this, you still won’t admit your mistake or kneel down and beg me for mercy. Could it be that you think you can walk away alive today in front of so many of Tianxiong clan’s experts? Furthermore, I brought at least 100 people with me today.” The young master said with unrivalled confidence. In his opinion, he would definitely devour Jian Chen today.

Jian Chen couldn’t help but smile faintly at these words. Just now, he had suddenly discovered that talking with a hedonistic son of rich parents like him, who had never been out in the world, was an extremely amusing thing to do.

“Then do you believe me when I say that not only will I leave here today, but I will also break all of your soldiers at the same time?” Jian Chen’s tone gradually turned darker as he spoke.

Chapter 131: Death Siege (One)

Hearing Jian Chen's haughty words, the young master of the Tianxiong clan couldn't help but laugh. He stared at Jian Chen like he was stupid before sneering in disdain, "Just you alone? Hmph, fine then. I'll see for myself if you can escape from this entrapment. Show me how many casualties you can inflict on these Tianxiong clan mercenaries with your abilities." The young master had brought over 100 mercenaries with at least half of them being of the Great Saint level. There were also around a dozen Saint Masters, so he did not believe that this guy would be able to run away from them at all.

Without wanting to waste any more breath on such superfluous talk with Jian Chen, the young master waved his hand and commanded, "Charge! I want this arrogant brat to be taught a good lesson."

The few mercenaries by the young master's side looked at each other. One person sneered, "It's merely a brat, there's no need for all of us to make a move." Turning toward one of the Tianxiong representative mercenary troops, he commanded, "You guys go bring that brat over."

"Yessir!"

Following the man's orders without any hesitation, the group immediately walked 10 meters forward to where Jian Chen was. With a cold glare, one of the mercenaries growled, "Kid, it'd be best if you just obediently let yourself be captured and return with us to the Tianxiong clan. This way you'll suffer less; otherwise, I

can guarantee you'll be in for a lot of pain.”

Jian Chen held his head up high and stood at his original position defiantly. This was a time where he could show off his ability, and the silver Light Wind Sword gradually materialized in his hand. In that instant, the aura around Jian Chen completely changed.

Everyone from the Tianxiong clan could tell what Jian Chen was planning on doing based on his action.

“Attack!”

The man who spoke previously cried out, causing the group of mercenaries to call out their Saint Weapons as they charged toward Jian Chen.

Jian Chen had a look of disdain on his face. To Jian Chen, who could even kill experts of the Saint Master level, these mere Saint users weren't worth even looking at.

The moment the several people neared Jian Chen, the Light Wind Sword suddenly turned into a blurry mirage, and quickly pierced out in the form of multiple phantom swords.

At the same time, the assaulters came to a screeching halt as trickles of blood began to pour from their throats. Then, faint traces of blood gradually appeared, and finally, dyed their clothes a bloody red as it suddenly burst out from their throats. In the end, all the men collapsed at the same time.

The expressions of the few mercenaries standing by the young master simultaneously changed, and they exchanged glances. They could tell from the gaze in their opponent's eyes that he was extremely serious. The men that had died were Saint level cannon fodder who were used to scout out Jian Chen's strength. No one really felt their deaths a shame.

However, when they saw the technique Jian Chen had used to kill the people, their hearts sank. In that moment, they could only see the faint image of his sword. Jian Chen's was so fast that they could barely see it with their vision.

In a flash, Jian Chen had killed a group of mercenaries from the Tianxiong clan, immediately dominating over everyone present. Although the restaurant was overflowing with people, it was engulfed in a pin-drop silence. Tianxiong clan's group of mercenaries all looked at Jian Chen in a daze. They hadn't thought that someone as young as Jian Chen could fight against so many people from their clan with ease. He had even dared to kill the hired mercenaries right in front of the Tianxiong clan. This was truly shocking and unexpected. .

The Tianxiong clan had dominated Wake City for over a dozen years. Although they had clashed with many different mercenaries, they had never fought against someone of Jian Chen's age who had dared to fight by himself. This was a first in the entire history of Wake City.

After a small amount of hesitation, the white robed man next to the young master said in a low voice, "Dear fellow, I don't know

where you came from or what teacher you are taught under, but why must you oppose the Tianxiong clan?”

Jian Chen’s display of strength at such a young age had revealed him to be a high leveled expert, and the experts of the Tianxiong clan couldn’t even make a guess on who was backing him up. They were all afraid that Jian Chen had the support of someone they couldn’t afford to offend. If they did, then it would perhaps bring a great amount of trouble for the Tianxiong clan. It was possible that the Tianxiong clan that had dominated Wake City for so long would be eliminated, just like that. This wasn’t a result that any of them were willing to see.

Although these mercenaries were employed by the Tianxiong clan and were not really affiliated with them, they weren’t treated all that badly. After being employed by the clan for so long, the mercenaries had developed a few feelings for the clan, and none of them had any desire to see it be condemned to extinction over such a small matter.

Jian Chen sneered. Thanks to his experience as a traveler in his previous world, he had immediately guessed what the man was trying to get at.

“I am a lone traveler, where I come from is no importance to you all. As for who my teacher is, I’m sorry, but up until this day, I have never had a teacher. Lastly, it was your Tianxiong clan that provoked me first, since when did it change to me being the one who made conflict?” Jian Chen laughed coldly.

Hearing that, the few middle aged men immediately let loose a

breath. Afterwards, the man that had previously talked continued, “Then you’d best come back to the Tianxiong clan with us. Otherwise, we won’t show the smallest amount of mercy toward you. If you come out of this missing an arm or leg, it would be bad.”

After seeing Jian Chen dispatch the group of mercenaries without any effort, these men didn’t have any strong desires to fight against him. Although they had confidence that they could capture Jian Chen, the lightning-like speed of his sword was something they was afraid of. If they were to get hurt, there was no way their profits would surpass their gains. If they could capture Jian Chen without much effort, they would be extremely happy.

“In your dreams!” Jian Chen sneered. His right arm shook as the Light Wind Sword quickly danced in the air, its tip flying toward the group of people. A large amount of Sword Qi enveloped the sword once more as Jian Chen said, “Speak less bullshit, if you want to do something, then hurry up.”

Jian Chen’s provocation infuriated the entire Tianxiong clan. The young master had long since lost his patience. He immediately waved his hand as he roared, “Why are you guys just standing there? Hurry up and capture him!”

Although this group of people standing next to the young master did not have low status or positions, it was obvious that their backbone was still the young master of the Tianxiong clan. The moment the words left his mouth, this group of people began to charge forward.

Chapter 132: Death Siege (Two)

A strong killing aura flashed through Jian Chen's eyes. Not waiting for the Tianxiong clan to advance any further, he lifted his own sword to attack. With a speed almost invisible to the naked eye, the Light Wind Sword flashed out at the swords approaching Jian Chen.

Against such a fast sword, even the stronger people in the group weren't able to properly defend themselves. The moment the sword finished its downward arc, the mercenaries had immediately fallen to the ground. A small trickle of blood flowed silently from their throats and stained the ground beneath them an iridescent, red color.

But the Tianxiong clan had brought over 100 people, so the deaths of such a small amount of people was of no concern to them. Another group began to charge rampantly toward Jian Chen with sounds so loud that their stampeding echoed.

Seeing the group of people that didn't seem to know death charge forward, Jian Chen's glare turned cooler. With a sigh, he increased the speed of his sword thrusts, and each one of the mercenaries found their throats stabbed. In their hearts, they knew this was a fatal blow and that there was not a single amount of mercy to be found within Jian Chen.

Even though Jian Chen knew that the Tianxiong clan was a major clan in Wake City, he wasn't at all afraid of matters like this. Now that he was by himself once more, he didn't have anyone behind him he had to worry about, so there was nothing to be

anxious about.

Jian Chen's petite body constantly wove through his attackers as his Light Wind Sword endlessly flashed around. With every arc of his sword, another person would fall, and thanks to his fierce battle strength, the entire restaurant had become a place of chaos. The chairs and tables that were previously organized neatly were now scattered about, while the fragrant dishes of food had crashed and spilled to the ground.

As fast as a demon, Jian Chen quickly dispatched mercenary after mercenary. Within the span of a few seconds, another 10 mercenaries had fallen, never to rise again. It was almost as if Jian Chen had eyes on the back of his head that could observe everything on the battleground. Every single time a mercenary swung his Saint Weapon, Jian Chen would "barely dodge" the danger at the critical point. He was a single man facing dozens of people, but even after fighting for some time, he hadn't received any wounds. Even as the mercenaries tried their hardest to slash at him, Jian Chen's clothes didn't even have the slightest tear.

Seeing his mercenaries fall to the floor one by one without Jian Chen sustaining any wounds, the young master of the Tianxiong clan scowled with dissatisfaction before cursing, "This group is useless, USELESS! Everyone here is good for nothing, I didn't know that my father had raised such a useless amount of trash that even a dozen of them couldn't seize a single person." He shook his head turned to look at the man to his side before barking out, "What are you and your men standing around for? Hurry up and capture him! Once he is taken back to the Tianxiong clan, I will show him my awesomeness. Hmph, anyone that's insulted me has never gotten away with it. He won't be an exception."

The group of people the young master had yelled at was all the strongest mercenaries. With their statuses, they would definitely be highly respected, even in the Tianxiong clan. After not being given face by the young master as he yelled at them, they couldn't help but feel annoyed.

The men looked at each other before one of them spoke out, "Although this person is young, he is extraordinarily strong. His movements and the speed of his sword are incomparably fast; even if it were us going against him, we would have difficulty as well. Moreover, all of his sword strikes so far have been fatal; if the mercenaries did not die by a sword through their throats, then they died from having their hearts pierced. From this, you can see that this person is not simple at all. Facing him head-on right now would be an unwise decision, and we may even get injured. For now, it would be best to call a few people over for him to waste his Saint Force over. The moment he uses up all of his Saint Force, we will strike and win easily."

"Not bad, I approve of this suggestion."

The man's suggestion had been quickly endorsed by the other mercenaries. Although, this would increase the amount of casualties among the Tianxiong clan, the responsibility of that would fall upon the young master himself and not the mercenaries themselves. And since this second generation master didn't care for them at all, they weren't willing to throw away their lives for him. If it meant throwing away the lives of others to persevere their own lives, they would do it.

Following up, another squad of mercenaries entered the restaurant to kill Jian Chen. The people in this group were of the Great Saint level, so they were stronger than the previous group by a large margin.

Jian Chen immediately engaged the Great Saints in a fierce battle. Against a group who was much stronger than before, Jian Chen's pressure had greatly increased; he would not be able to fight as easily as before.

As the fighting grew more and more intense, the entire restaurant became even more ruined. All of the surrounding walls had holes kicked through them, causing the entire restaurant to be on the verge of collapsing.

Outside of the restaurant, a large crowd of people had gathered, and were passionately gossiping about the fight that was happening inside.

Inside the restaurant.

In a brilliant flash of silver, Jian Chen stabbed one of the Great Saints in the heart, killing him instantly. Stamping on the chest of the man, he sent the body flying backward, creating yet another hole in the walls of the restaurant before the body flew out.

The restaurant shuddered violently once more, each sway stronger than the last. Finally, the loud crunching sounds of wood could be heard as it trembled once more.

Jian Chen nimbly dodged the blades of 3 Saint Weapons while looking at the wobbling pillars of the restaurant. Without any hesitation, he pushed the mercenaries away as he escaped from the newly created hole, out onto the streets.

“Chase after him! Don’t let him get away!”

The moment he saw Jian Chen leave the restaurant, the young master cried out at the mercenaries to chase after him.

After the young master had spoken out, the group of mercenaries next to him had also cried out, “Not good, the restaurant’s about to collapse, escort the young master away to safety!”

Immediately, a middle aged man grabbed the young master by the shoulders before bringing him out of the way of the collapsing restaurant. Everyone else followed closely behind.

The moment the group ran out of the restaurant, the entire restaurant caved in. In that moment, the mercenaries that didn’t make it in time were buried.

Soon after, a silver ray of light came flying toward the young master of the Tianxiong clan.

Chapter 133: The Death Of The Young Master Of The Tianxiong Clan

“Young master, be careful!” The middle aged man cried out as he discovered the trajectory of the flashing white light. His face grew paler by two shades as he realized the sword was going too fast. With the sword already a meter from the young master’s throat, under this type of situation, there was simply no time to react.

“Pchh!”

Because of the lightning like sword strike, the barely Saint level young master practically had no chance to react, and so the Light Wind Sword stabbed itself deeply into his throat.

The young master of the Tianxiong clan’s widened his eyes as he looked dead on at the sword in his throat. There was a look of disbelief, he was not expecting this outcome at all. To think that this depressed little mercenary he had come across on the road to the Magical Beast Mountain Range would unexpectedly be the one to end his life. If he had known about this before, he wouldn’t have dared to come close to Jian Chen, but it was a shame that there was no such thing as a regret pill in this world for him to eat. Right now, his destiny was all but confirmed, and there was a better chance for him to alter the mountain range’s landscape than this.

Seeing their young master already have his throat pierced, the mercenaries by his side all stared in great shock, some had even paled instantaneously. They were fully aware that the person in front of them was the young master of the Tianxiong clan who was dearly loved by the clan leader. He was also the successor of the

clan when the time came, so to see their young master be killed right in front of their eyes, they couldn't believe it. If the clan leader were to hear of this news, no one knew how furious he would become, and how severe their penalties would be.

Just thinking about the severe temper of the Tianxiong clan leader had sent shivers among all of the mercenaries. Each one of them began to look at Jian Chen with rage, if they weren't able to bring Jian Chen back with them, then they would be served as a substitute instead.

“Brat, you’ve killed our young master, prepare to die.”

All of the mercenaries began to charge at Jian Chen without hesitation while shouting out, “All Tianxiong mercenaries, surround him immediately! Don’t let him escape!”

These mercenaries all held high statuses in the Tianxiong clan, so the moment they spoke, every other members of the Tianxiong clan threw away their hesitation and immediately surrounded Jian Chen from all 4 sides. At the same time, everyone that had been watching quickly distanced themselves further away.

Even under the collapsed restaurant, a stream of mercenaries crawled out looking disheveled, but they continued to join the other mercenaries.

Every single mercenary in the vicinity had seen with their own eyes the death of their young master by the hands of Jian Chen, so they fully understood the gravity of the situation. Everyone took a

step back in order to divert attention from themselves, at this moment, no one was willing to go and inform the clan leader. They were afraid of being implicated in the death of the young master and suffering the wrath in place of Jian Chen.

After landing the killing blow on the young master, Jian Chen had immediately started to fight with the middle aged mercenaries. These mercenaries were of the Saint Master level, and three of them were even at the Peak Saint Master level. Against so many Saint Masters, the pressure was on full blast, causing Jian Chen to have to go all out.

Jian Chen and the mercenaries continued to exchange blows in an endless storm of blades and fists that left the mercenaries flustered. Taking advantage of the situation, Jian Chen had used his Light Wind Sword and immediately stabbed one of the mercenaries through his heart.

The moment Jian Chen had stabbed into the middle aged man's heart, a big axe had landed onto his left shoulder, leaving behind a wound that trickled and dyed his clothes red with blood.

Feeling an immense amount of pain in his left shoulder, Jian Chen's face immediately whitened. Pulling out his sword from the man's chest, he rapidly thrust it at the mercenary with the axe.

Seeing the silver flash of the Light Wind Sword, the man with the axe immediately narrowed his eyes in concentration and brought his weapon up in front to receive the blow. At the moment of impact, the man was thrown backward by the explosive force.

“Ding!”

The tip of the Light Wind Sword had stabbed into the blade of the axe. But thanks to the amount of Sword Qi around the sword, it had left a noticeable dent in the glossy blade.

A sharp metallic sound was heard as five Saint Weapons immediately headed toward Jian Chen at the same time while cutting off any possible escape routes for Jian Chen. The amount of Saint Force that was radiating from each weapon was enough to cause a massive amount of air fluctuations.

Jian Chen’s eyes flashed in annoyance as the amount of Sword Qi on his Light Wind Sword was increased several times over, making the sword seem even hazier than before. In a flash he struck out at the five Saint Weapons and struck each one with a clang.

While the Light Wind Sword had stopped the five Saint Weapons, Jian Chen’s face grew white slightly as his right arm began to shake marginally. This combined strike was the unified strength of all 5 mercenaries which would be extremely difficult to accept with ease. Because of the large amount of force put behind the 5 mercenaries, Jian Chen’s entire right arm had gone numb as even his inner organs had been temporarily shaken.

“Ha!”

Angrily shouting out, the Saint Masters didn’t dare let Jian Chen have the opportunity to breathe in rest. Once more striking at him,

these mercenaries were extraordinarily clever. Unless there was a hole in their attack pattern, Jian Chen would find it hard to defend himself without getting seriously harmed.

A fierce expression revealed itself on Jian Chen's face as he unexpectedly stood in front of the 5 Saint Weapons. His Light Wind Sword then transformed in a silver streak of light as it flew at the closest person at breakneck speed.

“Pch!”

The Light Wind Sword met no obstructions as it penetrated the man's throat, at the same time, the 5 Saint Weapons that were on the verge of cutting into him had their Saint Force already about to touch his clothes.

In a split second, Jian Chen's body twisted in a way that had dodged 3 of the Saint Weapons, but the remaining 2 had struck him on the back and waist.

Jian Chen stifled a shout as his already white face grew even more pale. He immediately pulled his sword from the throat of one of the mercenaries and looked at the remaining fighters, he threw away the idea of continuing to fight zealously and began to plan his way of escape from this area.

Jian Chen clearly understood that the Tianxiong clan had a formidable amount of power. The longer he stayed here, the more unfavorable his position would be. With his current strength, he would only be able to fight against a Saint Master, if the Tianxiong

clan had a Great Saint Master, he would be in trouble.

However, with his remaining amount of strength, it would not be enough to defend himself.

Sensing Jian Chen's plan to escape, one of the remaining Saint Masters immediately cried out, "Block him quickly! Don't let him escape!"

Chapter 134: Wrath Of The Tianxiong Clan

Sensing that Jian Chen was planning to escape, one of the remaining Saint Masters immediately cried out, “Block him quickly! Don’t let him escape!”

The vigilant mercenaries surrounding the Saint Masters and Jian Chen immediately charged forward to block Jian Chen heroically. The Saint Weapons in their hands immediately came down toward Jian Chen, and despite knowing how exceptionally strong Jian Chen was, those who came forward to block him were not afraid at all.

Jian Chen’s legs blurred slightly, causing him to deviate from his original path and onto the side. Dodging the numerous Saint Weapons, his right arm shook as his Light Wind Sword danced wildly all around. One by one, the mercenaries that had tried to block him fell to the ground. How would Saints or Great Saints be able to defend against Jian Chen’s usage of the Profound Steps? Despite being injured and having his fighting ability lowered, if Jian Chen were to use his entire strength, these mercenaries still wouldn’t have a chance.

After killing the mercenaries with lightning speed, Jian Chen twisted his body without any hesitation, and began to run away from the mercenaries, as if possessed by a demon.

As for the people that were observing the fight, they immediately left the road as soon as they saw him charge straight at them. It was almost as if they were afraid of obstructing Jian Chen and meeting the same fate the Tianxiong clan members had. Jian Chen

had fought against the Tianxiong clan by himself while killing a few high ranking experts, and even two Peak Saint Masters, completely unafraid of the Tianxiong clan. The fact that he had even killed the young master of the clan had scared the mercenaries so much that they didn't dare to provoke him. In fact, some people had started to see him as a person with the strength of a Great Saint Master. This type of person was rare to see even in a large group of mercenaries.

Jian Chen was moving at an extraordinary speed. In a short moment, he was already 30 meters away from the group of mercenaries watching him. At that moment, because there wasn't enough time, the mercenaries that were watching him simply weren't fast enough to open a path for him.

Just as Jian Chen was about to reach the group of mercenaries, his two feet suddenly stomped on the ground, pushing his entire body into the air, his feet still in a running position. The amount of force behind his leap was tremendous, sending him flying 10 meters away from the mercenaries. The moment his body touched the ground, Jian Chen began to run away from them once more.

“After him! Hurry up and chase him! Don't let him escape!”

“Catch him quickly!”

“He's trying to escape from the city! Someone send a message to the city military officers to close the gates!”

A collection of furious, impatient shouts were heard as the

mercenaries charged in from behind with deafening sounds. The few Saint Masters had followed Jian Chen's actions and leapt over the observers, before quickly disappearing into the streets. The Great Saint and Saint level mercenaries quickly followed behind.

“Roar!”

Not too long after they entered the streets, the angry snarl of a magical beast could be heard from behind. The roar caused the entire street to shake, almost as if there was an earthquake.

The mercenaries that were still standing around to watch suddenly cleared the road as an ox-like magical beast came charging through. Mounted on top of the magical beast was a sturdy, middle aged man wearing a gold embroidered robe. From his appearance, he looked to be approaching his 50s, and his serious expression made him seem even more imposing. His pupils as dark as the night itself shone with a cold glare that made many of the weaker mercenaries unable to look at him in the face.

In a remote city like Wake City, people that had the ability to ride magical beasts were a very rare sight. One thing was for sure, however; if the person who was riding a magical beast was not a high leveled expert, then it was a person from a noble clan. That was because only these 2 types of people could typically use magical beasts as mounts.

Following behind the middle aged magical beast rider was a group of about 50 people. Each member stood in a clean formation with a serious expression, and they looked like soldiers who were well trained.

The exact moment the middle aged man came into view, everyone's eyes focused in on him. The entire area descended into a strange silence. But soon after, the observing mercenaries all began to comment to each other.

“Isn't that the Tianxiong clan's leader, Tianxiong Lie? I didn't think he'd arrive so soon.”

“It is said that not only is the Tianxiong clan the strongest clan in Wake City, but the clan leader is also extremely strong. He has already reached the Middle Great Saint Master realm, and also possesses a defense based on his earth attribute Saint Force as well. In all of Wake City, there are very few people that can contend against the Tianxiong clan's Tianxiong Lie.”

“The young master of the Tianxiong Clan is the result of years of hard work by Tianxiong Lie. It was with great difficulty that he had raised a son; it could even be said just giving birth to him was difficult enough. Ever since the young master's birth, Tianxiong Lie had treated him like an expensive treasure. I don't know how angry Tianxiong Lie will become after finding out his son has been killed. His son had been the only candidate for passing on Tianxiong clan's legacy...”

Tianxiong Lie, who was sitting on the magical beast, stared down at at the mercenaries below him with a frosty glare. However, the moment his eyes fell on the white robed youth on the floor, his eyes suddenly went rigid as an intense killing intent flooded out of him. His face began to grow red; even his breathing became laborious, and his facial expression changed to one of disbelief.

“Kang Er!” Tianxiong Lie cried out with a slight tremble in his voice. Jumping down from his mount, he ran over to where his son lay with wide eyes. Tianxiong Lie’s face paled rapidly as he studied the all too familiar face on the ground with a look of utter shock.

“Kang Er!” Tianxiong Lie cried out in anguish as he shook the youth’s shoulder with both his hands. Feeling the icy body, Tianxiong Lie’s heart felt like it had shattered. From his vast amount of experience, he already knew that this person had already stopped breathing and died.

“Kang Er! Kang Er!”

Tianxiong Lie continued to cry out in sorrow as tears began to flow from his eyes. His clear tears fell from his eyes, slowly flowing down his son’s steadfast face, and eventually falling to the ground and breaking.

Tianxiong Kang was the sole heir to Tianxiong Lie. Because of an injury to his body, he had long since been rendered unable to have children. But this child had been his proudest achievement, and he had always doted on this son of his. Since it was impossible for him to have children, Tianxiong Kang was the clan’s darling treasure. But now that Tianxiong Lie’s pride and joy were suddenly killed, his heart had been attacked and crushed in a way that was impossible to describe with words.

Tianxiong Lie looked to be around 40 to 50 years old, but that

was because of the normal life expectancy of those on the Tian Yuan Continent, as well as his cultivation. In reality, he was already within his 70s, and with the injuries he had sustained earlier in life, he was utterly incapable of reproducing.

“Who was it that killed my Kang Er? No matter who it is, I Tianxiong Lie, will rip their body apart into a thousand pieces!”

Chapter 135: Escape From Wake City

Wake City may have been a Third Class City with a small amount of permanent residents, but because of its proximity to the Magical Beast Mountain Range and the amount of fertile land around them, the amount of people that flowed in and out of the city was at a constant high.

There were countless merchants and peddlers trying to sell their wares in the streets of Wake City. Some stores were selling almost anything imaginable, but among all the stores, restaurants held the dominant spot in the industry. Mercenaries and merchants in caravans endlessly walked the streets while gossiping among each other. The clamor in the streets was truly a sign that Wake City was flourishing.

However, at this moment, there was a huge disturbance on those same streets. Everyone could only see a youthful figure with blood soaked clothes come running toward them at breakneck speeds. The appearance of the youth had been noticed by many people on the streets, who all pointed and began to chat with each other.

“Whoever blocks that person will be heavily rewarded by the Tianxiong clan!”

At the same time, a thunderous yell came from behind. A few more disheveled figures came running out from behind as they chased after the youth at equally fast speeds.

“Tianxiong clan, they’re from the Tianxiong clan...”

“The Tianxiong clan is the number 1 clan in Wake City. I wouldn’t dare to provoke the person that has committed an offense against the Tianxiong clan.”

After hearing the middle aged man’s words, many mercenaries began to whisper to each other. However, not a single person decided to chase after that youth and block his path.

That youth was Jian Chen, the one who had easily killed the young master of the Tianxiong clan, as well as a few other mercenaries affiliated with them.

Jian Chen hurried on over toward the city gates. Whenever he came across an obstruction, he would quickly fly over it with extreme speed. Despite this, there were still a few Saint Masters that were chasing him closely. However, Jian Chen’s use of the Profound Steps had put him at an advantage, so even though those middle aged men were stronger than him, they were unable to overtake him. They would need at least need to be at the Great Saint level with a wind attributed Saint Force in order to overwhelm him; otherwise, their speed was only enough to barely keep up with Jian Chen’s level. Plus, they weren’t able to overcome the obstacles as easily as Jian Chen had.

Despite being a Third Class City, the amount of area Wake City spanned across was still huge. Even if Jian Chen hurried to the city gates as fast as he possibly could, the period would at least take the amount of time it takes for a candle to burn.

Having put all his effort into running away, Jian Chen was now breathing quite hard. He had previously just engaged in a fierce battle that consumed quite a bit of his Saint Force, and now he was even injured. The burden that he felt from running with all his might under his current condition was extremely great. In addition, his body was feeling the intense pain from his wounds every time he moved, so Jian Chen's nerves were being put to the severe test.

Up ahead, the gigantic and majestic towers of the city gates blurrily came into view, along with the soldiers on it. Right now, Jian Chen was about 5 kilometers away from the city gates, while the Saint Masters behind him were about 50 meters away from him.

Seeing the city gates get closer and closer, Jian Chen's heart couldn't help but relax a bit, although his speed didn't lessen. Jian Chen was aware that with his current strength, there was no way for him to go against the Tianxiong clan, which had an enormous influence over Wake City. Right now, all Jian Chen wanted to do was to escape from Wake City. That way, the amount of danger would decrease drastically.

“Roar!”

At this moment, the angry roar of a magical beast came from behind Jian Chen. As the roar dissipated, another angry shout followed soon after.

“I, Tianxiong Lie, will heavily reward whoever catches that man!”

Hearing the sounds coming from behind, Jian Chen's face changed slightly. Based on the voice, he could determine how strong the person was, and this was someone he couldn't afford to fight against.

"Tianxiong Lie, I presume that's someone else from the Tianxiong clan." Jian Chen thought to himself secretly. Increasing his speed, Jian Chen began to run even faster.

The merchants and mercenaries that had heard the angry roar of Tianxiong Lie looked stunned..

"Tianxiong Lie, isn't that the current leader of the number 1 clan in Wake City?"

"To offend a member of the Tianxiong Clan and then be chased by them, means that they must be a strong person then. Forget it, I've only just reached the Great Saint level, it's best not to get involved."

"The Tianxiong clan is the strongest within the city, if I were to help stop this person, then Tianxiong Lie would definitely reward me handsomely. Perhaps I can even become a friend of the Tianxiong clan. Something like this would be very fortuitous for me."

A few of the mercenaries who were familiar with the power structure in Wake City began to talk about the status of Tianxiong Lie. As they talked to each other, a few of the stronger men had

started to weigh the benefits of helping out.

It was obvious that Tianxiong Lie had quite an amount of prestige in Wake City. The moment he spoke out, many mercenaries had immediately been influenced. Seeing Jian Chen come running toward them, many of the mercenaries had already brought out their Saint Weapons and walked out to block Jian Chen's path.

The moment one mercenary walked forward, all the other mercenaries followed suit, and helped to block Jian Chen's path. These men were clearly enticed by the irresistible reward put up by Tianxiong Lie; after all, the Tianxiong clan was as powerful in reality as they were in name.

Seeing the group of people up ahead, Jian Chen's face immediately hardened. But since he was going so fast, he was already right next to them in the span less than five seconds.

Just as Jian Chen was about to make contact, the mercenaries brought their Saint Weapons out to as they charged at him.

Not wanting to get entangled with them, Jian Chen leapt into the air to dodge the incoming group. Landing on top of the roof of a store, he disappeared over the heads over the crowd.

“Where do you think you're escaping to!”

Immediately a group of experts with faster reaction times flew up

with him, and slashed at Jian Chen with their Saint Weapons.

A severe amount of killing intent flashed flashed from Jian Chen as the silver colored Light Wind Sword appeared out of nowhere. With a swish of his hand, it quickly flew at his pursuers.

“Ding ding ding ding!”

The sounds of Saint Weapons clashing against each other rang throughout the air as blood began to sprinkle down below. The few amount of mercenaries that had chased after Jian Chen were like broken kites that had back down to the ground uselessly. After dropping them to the ground and silently struggling by herse. If there was no movement from them. Instead, a trickle of blood flowed from their throats and chests to the ground below them.

Chapter 136: Pursuit Of The Tianxiong Clan

While Jian Chen was in midair, he had quickly killed the mercenaries who were chasing him. This sudden show of strength had surprised everyone; they hadn't thought that Jian Chen would be able to kill the mercenaries. With this new development, many of the mercenaries decided against their original plan to block Jian Chen.

Although many people were seduced by Tianxiong Lie's promise of a heavy reward, one needed to be alive to claim it. If they were to throw away their lives, they would not be able to enjoy it even if they earned the reward.

After killing the mercenaries blocking his path, Jian Chen continued onward. Jumping down from the buildings, he ran off to get closer to the city gates.

After seeing what had just happened, there was no longer any mercenary that dared to obstruct him. So for a good amount of time, Jian Chen's journey to the city gates was very smooth.

"You won't get away. Even if you run to the ends of the earth itself, I, Tianxiong Lie, swear to break your body into a thousand pieces!"

An angry roar came from the Tianxiong clan leader riding on his magical beast mount from behind Jian Chen. They were currently chasing after Jian Chen at top speeds, and it wasn't hard to tell from the noise just how powerful Tianxiong Lie's determination to

kill Jian Chen was.

Jian Chen's killing of Tianxiong Kang was tantamount to killing Tianxiong Lie's whole family. After all, Tianxiong Kang was his sole son, and with Tianxiong Lie's body being in such a state, he had lost the ability to reproduce.

Jian Chen turned a deaf ear from Tianxiong Lie's murderous roars. The only thing he wanted to do was to quickly escape from the huge city. The sounds of the footsteps from behind were getting louder and louder as Jian Chen realized that they belonged to a magical beast much faster than his own speed.

5 kilometers, 4 kilometers, 3 kilometers...

Jian Chen was rapidly approaching the city gates. There was only 2 kilometers left until he reached them. He could already see the giant gates leading outside of the city, but right behind was Tianxiong Lie, who was riding his magical beast only 1 kilometer behind him.

"Commander Hadow, if you can close this gate and help stop this person, then I, Tianxiong Lie, won't be able to thank you enough!"

Tianxiong Lie's voice came out like powerful thunder from behind him. Quickly, the city gates to Wake City began to close.

Seeing the city gates close, Jian Chen's face immediately fell. His eyes swept toward the gates 40 meters away as he let out a deep

breath of air. The Saint Force within his body began to circulate within his body, increasing his speed by some degree. At the same time, Jian Chen was employing the techniques he had learned from his past life; both of his legs ran at such a fast speed that his feet looked as if they were gliding across the ground. For every 10 or 20 meters that he glided, his legs touched the ground once.

In a flash, Jian Chen arrived at the foot of the city gates. Already, there was a large group of mercenaries congregating by the rapidly closing gates awaiting Jian Chen. Quite a few of them were cursing Jian Chen.

Jian Chen didn't bother to slow down at the sight of this. Instead, his legs disappeared in a blur as he ran another 30 meters before leaping at the city gates in preparation to climb it. Finally gathering his strength, Jian Chen's legs stamped onto the ground and began to scale the wall.

The moment Jian Chen had started to climb the wall, the people below had immediately taken notice and began to chatter nonstop.

In two breaths' time, Jian Chen had smoothly climbed up the 40 meter tall city wall. Both of his legs stepped off of the wall without a hitch, and he flew over the heads of one of the guards on top of the wall before descending down the other side.

It was going well for Jian Chen; on his way down the city wall, he met no obstructions. Even as he flew over the heads of the guards on top of the wall, they could only look at him with wide eyes.

As Jian Chen climbed the city walls, Tianxiong Lie, who was right behind, immediately jumped up onto the wall without his magical beast and started to scale it in the same manner as Jian Chen had. However, not only was the magical beast very heavy, it was not an expert in climbing, so it remained on the ground as Tianxiong Lie stopped in his tracks, but didn't admit his violations, nor was he willing to go with the officials.

After that, another group of 10 middle aged men rushing over and looked at the city walls before climbing up the wall and running in the same direction as Jian Chen. These people were the Saint Masters of the the Tianxiong Clan.

“Open the gates!”

Just as these people flew out from the city, a deep sound came out from behind the gates. Soon after, the closed gates began to slowly creak open.

On the wall stood two middle aged men. One of them wore a long white robe, while the other wore black armor. At that moment, the two middle aged men were looking at the group of people currently walking into the distance outside of the city at rapid speeds.

When Jian Chen's group disappeared from their lines of sight, the middle aged man wearing armor looked at the white robed man next to him and asked, “Commander Hadow, why didn't you hold him back?”

The white robed middle aged man smiled and said, “He killed

Tianxiong Lie's sole son, Tianxiong Kang, and I haven't even had the chance to thank him yet. Why would I stop him?"

The armored man paused for a bit, and seemed to have thought of something, he broke into a smile that made it seem like he was taking joy in another's misfortune.

.....

Outside the city, the feverish Jian Chen looked back at Tianxiong Lie, who was pursuing him from behind. His face grew heavy as he saw Tianxiong Lie; although Jian Chen hadn't fought with him yet, he knew that Tianxiong Lie was not an equal opponent.

Looking at the area behind him, Jian Chen began to think for a while before biting his lips in frustration and then turned to run toward the direction of the Magical Beast Mountain Range.

He knew that in this wide open space, there would be no way for him to shake off the determined Tianxiong Lie. The only method for him was to run toward the Magical Beast Mountain Range. From there, he would be able to use the complicated forest and terrain to his advantage to escape from him."

Seeing the gap between him and Jian Chen shrink further and further, Tianxiong Lie's eyes immediately turned red. He didn't conceal his powerful murderous aura at all as he roared in anger, "You can't run away from me!"

Jian Chen turned back to survey his surroundings. There was only about a 500m difference between him and Tianxiong Lie. Based on this situation, Tianxiong Lie would most likely catch up with him before he reached Magical Beast Mountain Range.

Jian Chen hesitated for a bit before clenching his teeth. The Light Wind Sword suddenly materialized in his right hand. The next moment, Jian Chen's figure, which was rushing forward, suddenly stopped. He then spontaneously charged toward Tianxiong Lie.

“Great Saint Master, I want to witness exactly how strong you are.”

Chapter 137: Battling A Great Saint Master

Seeing that Jian Chen was no longer running, and was even voluntarily rushing toward him, Tianxiong Lie couldn't help but give a fierce-looking smile as he roared, "Yes, come. I'm going to dismember your body into thousands of pieces, no, dying would be letting you off too lightly. I will definitely make you live in a hell to the point where you'd rather die." As he said this, a wide axe suddenly appeared in Tianxiong Lie's hand. This axe was extremely large, over double the size of Tianxiong Lie's tall and sturdy body. The entire axe had the color and luster of yellow earth, and its sharp edge flashed with a cold, threatening glow.

The Light Wind sword in Jian Chen's hand slashed through air, making a faint, air-splitting sound as it was thrust toward Tianxiong Lie.

"Heh!" Tianxiong Lie let out an explosive shout, and the axe in his hand suddenly flashed with a yellow glow. It then swung down toward Jian Chen with a shrill ear-piercing shriek.

"To think that it's an earth attributed Saint Force!"

Seeing the yellow glow on the axe, Jian Chen's heavy expression couldn't help but sink even further. He then immediately retracted his Light Wind Sword to dodge Tianxiong Lie's attack. With a flash, he appeared next to Tianxiong Lie's side, and the Light Wind Sword pierced toward his waist.

Tianxiong Lie sneered. He suddenly let go of one of the hands

gripping the axe, and his palm quickly became surrounded by a layer of yellow light. Just like that, it began to rush to grab Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword.

The Light Wind Sword was tightly caught by Tianxiong Lie's right hand, and the sharp sword blade unexpectedly didn't harm him at all.

There was a trace of shock reflected in Jian Chen's eyes. Although he had long since heard about the profound talent that those with the earth attribute possessed—their extremely powerful defense—but he hadn't realized it'd be to such an extent.

Afterward, Jian Chen's eyes fiercely flashed. In the next moment, the Light Wind Sword currently being tightly grasped by Tianxiong Lie's right hand suddenly emitted powerful Sword Qi. Under this strong attack, the yellow layer of light around Tianxiong Lie's right hand quickly turned lighter, indicating that it was faintly dissipating.

Tianxiong Lie quickly released the Light Wind Sword. The moment his hand left the blade, the yellow glow surrounding his hand also disappeared. A yellow cross-shaped wound could be seen on Tianxiong Lie's hand, and fresh blood quickly covered his entire palm, dying it crimson.

His eyes never once wavered from Jian Chen who stood right in front of him. Tianxiong Lie gave an angry growl as he continued to focus on Jian Chen before demanding, "Speak, why did you kill my Kang Er, who was it that hired you to do it?"

Seeing how there was a good 10 feet distance from Tianxiong Lie, Jian Chen lowered his sword a fraction and spoke coldly, “No one told me to do anything, it was your son that provoked me first. If you want to blame anyone, then blame yourself for teaching a child to not know anything besides bragging and causing trouble wherever he goes.”

Tianxiong Lie’s glare froze over at Jian Chen before asking once more, “Was there really no person that told you to kill my son? You need not be afraid of being someone’s scapegoat. If you tell me right now, then I’ll let you die a quick death.”

“I’ve already told you. It’s up to yourself if you want to believe it or not.” Jian Chen replied.

Seeing how there was no hint of a lie in Jian Chen’s words, Tianxiong Lie couldn’t help but believe him. Opening his mouth, he said, “So it seems that it was my fault, I was too lenient on Kang Er and so Kang Er is dead because of me.” As he spoke, Jian Chen could hear the sorrow and regret in Tianxiong Lie’s voice.

At this moment a decent distance away, a group of 10 people were approaching rapidly. Seeing the group of people behind Tianxiong Lie, Jian Chen mood couldn’t help but change for the worse. If he couldn’t defend himself against someone like Tianxiong Lie, then with another 10 Saint Masters added into the mix, Jian Chen would definitely die here today.

While reabsorbing his Light Wind Sword back into his body, Jian

Chen's feet immediately stamped against the ground, causing a clump of dirt to fly up. Concentrating the Saint Force in his body in his hands, he slapped the dirt forward. Immediately, the clump of dirt became a huge dust cloud that flew toward Tianxiong Lie and blocked his vision.

Gaining this new opportunity, Jian Chen didn't hesitate. His figure immediately became a blur as he headed toward the Magical Beast Mountain Range.

Because of the dust cloud, Tianxiong Lie's vision was heavily impacted and could not see around himself at all. In order to avoid a surprise attack by Jian Chen, he immediately leapt backward from the dust cloud area. Although, the moment he saw Jian Chen had instead chosen to run away, he exploded with anger, "You can't escape!" Before he had even finished talking, he started to chase after Jian Chen. However, because of this delay, the headstart Jian Chen had gave him a few hundred meters of distance.

In this current situation, Jian Chen was unable to heal himself using the light Saint Force. What he needed the most was to run away at full speed to the Magical Beast Mountain Range to avoid Tianxiong Lie's wrath.

Wake City was only 20 kilometers away from the Magical Beast Mountain Range. With Jian Chen running as if his life depended on it, he was already close to the Magical Best Mountain Range. Arriving at the forest which was by the outskirts of the mountain, he came across a dense part of the forest.

Tianxiong Lie who was still chasing him from behind could already guess what Jian Chen was planning to do. With some hesitation, he brought out his giant axe that gleamed in the light in his hands. Tianxiong Lie held his axe above his head before letting out an explosive shout and swinging downward.

Then a two meter long earth attribute Saint Force colored crescent moon came flying toward Jian Chen.

Sensing a large amount of energy fluctuating behind him, Jian Chen didn't bother to look around and instead ran to the side in an attempt to dodge.

The crescent moon like force of energy had moved past Jian Chen's back. This time, Jian Chen's good luck had saved him once more.

“Bang!”

The earth Saint Force exploded against a huge rock, letting out a loud sound as a result and scattering the energy in all four directions. The stone which was previously the height of two people and 3 meters wide exploded into multiple fragments that flew everywhere. Several of the fragments that flew from the stone hit Jian Chen.

Jian Chen had tried his best to avoid every single stone fragment that flew at him, but with the sheer amount of them, enough to cover the sky, there were already some sharp rocks that had made it past his defenses.

With this unfortunate accident, Jian Chen's movement was definitely hindered.

“Kid, accept your death!” A loud roar came from behind. It was Tianxiong Lie with his axe up high and a large amount of Saint Force ready to be used.

Chapter 138: A Chance To Kill From The Forest

In a flash, the Light Wind Sword appeared in Jian Chen's hand. In the next moment, an overwhelming amount of Sword Qi began to flow around the sword, causing it to look hazy to everyone. Separating itself from Jian Chen's hand, it became a streak of silver light as it flew toward Tianxiong Lie's axe at unbelievable speeds.

“Ding!”

The Light Wind Sword and the axe collided against each other, creating a sound of metal hitting metal. After the attack, the strong amount of Sword Qi on the Light Wind Sword and the earth Saint Force on the axe began to dim with each push against each other. A large shockwave had then resulted, spreading out with the two weapons acting as the epicenter, pushing Jian Chen backward just by the force.

The Light Wind Sword was blasted backward before slowly floating to a halt. Stopping 10 meters away from where it used to be, it began to shake violently before another wave of Sword Qi enveloped the sword and shot forward once more.

“Whoosh!”

At this moment, the Light Wind Sword was like it possessed a mind of its own. With a shrill sound as it traveled through the air, it flew toward Tianxiong Lie without any further delay.

Seeing the the Light Wind Sword come at his throat, Tianxiong Lie immediately tilted his neck out of the way. Despite the Light Wind Sword barely missing his neck, the Sword Qi on the sword had left behind a small trace of a wound on his neck.

Jian Chen cried out in pity inwardly, to think that he had such a good opportunity and Tianxiong Lie had unexpectedly dodged it. He wasn't discouraged; using his spirit to control the Light Wind Sword, he commanded it to fly at Tianxiong Lie once more.

Seeing how the Light Wind Sword was flying by itself in midair, Tianxiong Lie couldn't but cry out in shock at this inconceivable event.

“What kind of trick is this, a Saint Weapon that is being controlled by no one. How can it fly by itself with such a speed?” Tianxiong Lie questioned to himself in amazement. No matter how much he looked at it, he wasn't able to understand it, this was something out his range of knowledge.

Once more, under the control of Jian Chen, the Light Wind Sword flashed toward Tianxiong Lie.

Tianxiong Lie shouted loudly as his earth Saint Force began to emanate from his body before condensing over his body like a type of armor. Raising his Saint Weapon into the air, he sent it flying down toward the Light Wind Sword.

At Jian Chen's will, the Light Wind Sword avoided Tianxiong

Lie's attack by moving to the side. Because Jian Chen's strength was far too different from Tianxiong Lie's, even if the Soul Sword increased his attack power several times over, it was still not enough to take on a hit from Tianxiong Lie.

Meanwhile, Tianxiong Lie's earth Saint Weapon crashed into the ground.

"Bang!" Came the sound as the axe ejected all of the nearby dirt, creating a crater.

The Light Wind Sword flew around in a circle before reorienting itself and flying at Tianxiong Lie once more. Before Tianxiong Lie could even react, the sharp point of the sword had stabbed into his sturdy body. The incredibly sharp Sword Qi collided against the incredibly sturdy body of Tianxiong Lie. As the two forces grinded against each other, Tianxiong Lie's durable body couldn't handle the pressure anymore. The Light Wind Sword bore a hole in his armor and stabbed through into his body.

However, just as the Light Wind Sword was about to stab into his skin, the inner Saint Force within Tianxiong Lie's body blocked it. The Great Saint Master's Saint Force then began to force it out of his body.

Jian Chen's eyebrows furrowed together as he thought about how difficult Tianxiong Lie was. He didn't think that with such a good opportunity, he still wasn't able to kill him. It would appear that even with the assistance of the Soul Sword, he was only able to hinder Tianxiong Lie for a moment. Even with good luck, he wouldn't be able to do serious harm, and if he wanted to kill him,

it would be easier to scale the heavens. With the Soul Sword taking up a lot of his spirit, Jian Chen wouldn't be able to last for much longer.

Thinking to himself, Jian Chen quickly came to a decision. In a split second, the Light Wind Sword flew back to his hand before disappearing from view. Without further hesitation, Jian Chen began to run toward the Magical Beast Mountain Range.

The most important matter was that he needed to run away. Because of Tianxiong Lie's strength, defending himself was a difficult task. Right now it was impossible to kill him, it would be for the best to wait until he was stronger and then come back to resolve the issue.

Tianxiong Lie stared gloomily at Jian Chen escaping as the earth Saint Force surrounding him was slowly absorbed back into his body. On his back was a small wound that was slowly dying a part of his clothes red.

“Clan leader!”

“My lord!”

At that moment, 10 mercenaries came into view behind Tianxiong Lie and stared with shock at the wound on Tianxiong Lie's back.

“Chase him, you cannot let him escape!” Tianxiong Lie shouted

before leading the mercenaries forward.

Jian Chen had already entered the thick part of the forest in a mad dash. However, his current speed was a lot slower than his original speed. Just breathing was a laborious task now and his face was rapidly paling. With each and every step he took he could feel the various wounds inflicted on him, tormenting his nerves. There was no time for him to find a place to treat his wounds, so he could only focus on running instead of using the light Saint Force to heal himself.

Stopping under a big tree to catch his breath, he turned his head around only to see Tianxiong Lie chasing from behind. Regaining his bearings, Jian Chen once more began to run toward the Magical Beast Mountain Range.

On the road, Jian Chen had used the trees and tall grass to hide his figure in order to throw off his trackers. In the forest it was a lot easier to hide. The trees and tall grass would throw off any pursuers with ease.

Unknown to the both of them, the chase had taken over half the day, meaning it was noon once more. The scorching hot sun was blocked by the cloudy skies, making the area around him look murky and dark.

While Tianxiong Lie and his group of mercenaries were trying to track Jian Chen's footprints through the Magical Beast Mountain Range, in the end, they had finally lost him.

Tianxiong Lie stared angrily at the tall grass around him with a dreadful expression. Immediately taking out a piece of paper from his robes, he said, “Xing Dao, take this warrant back immediately and organize for a group to search the mountain range.”

“Yes, my lord!” One of the males took the warrant from Tianxiong Lie’s hand and disappeared from the forest.

Chapter 139: Stealth Kill

After the mercenary with the warrant left, Tianxiong Lie waved his hand at the others, “Search the surrounding area carefully for any traces. I want to know where he ran off to.”

After losing track of Jian Chen, Tianxiong Lie and his group of mercenaries could only hope to look for traces left behind by him, but this was a task that was significantly hard.

In a dense part of the forest in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, Jian Chen sat down under a big tree with a pale face. Carefully using his Light Wind Sword to pick out the pieces of stone fragments in his body, his clothes were beginning to be dyed completely red.

Each time the tip of the Light Wind Sword stabbed into his flesh, a new wave of pain pelted through Jian Chen. The constant source of pain had tested Jian Chen’s nerves, and his forehead was soaked with sweat with each additional moment.

When the final stone fragment had been extracted from his body, Jian Chen finally let loose a relieved grunt. Without energy, he slumped against the wide tree trunk and calmly took in deep breaths of air.

After resting for a while, Jian Chen concentrated his senses on his surroundings only to discover that it was peaceful once more. Sitting in a cross-legged position, a ball of white light slowly came into view and enveloped Jian Chen in it. It continued to heal Jian

Chen's body for a few moments before turning into a ball of milky white light. By this point, Jian Chen's body was completely submerged. From the outside, you could only see a blurry outline of his body.

For an hour, Jian Chen continued to stay submerged in that milky glow of white light before it started to gradually dissipate. Not to long afterward, his body could be clearly seen within it. This time, Jian Chen's face no longer had that pale look on it, instead his regular healthy glow was back. The various wounds that used to adorn his body were now completely gone without a single scar left on his body.

However, Jian Chen didn't wake out of his stupor just yet, he continued to recollect the lost Saint Force he has used up in his escape. The amount he had used was not small, and the Saint Force within his body had almost been completely depleted. Because of the fact that he was not only in the Magical Beast Mountain Range where Magical Beasts could find him, but Tianxiong's men would be searching the area. So all Jian Chen could do was to try and maintain his body's optimal condition in order to be able to confront any dangers he might come across.

Not aware of how much time had elapsed, Jian Chen's body had actually sat in the same position for six hours constantly refilling his Saint Force. Not at any single point in time did his body move, neither did his eyes ever blink open. It was almost like he was a monk that had entered a deep meditation state and had completely lost awareness of the material world around him.

At that moment from behind a tree, a slender python came

slithering out noiselessly toward Jian Chen. Coiling around the tree it paused, before it slowly glided toward him again, and not too long after, it began to stretch its small jaws open.

Just as the snake was less than a foot away from him, the cross-legged Jian Chen suddenly opened his eyes. A cold glint appeared in his eyes as the Light Wind Sword appeared in the palm of his right hand and stabbed at the python with an extremely quick speed.

“Pch!”

The Light Wind Sword accurately pierced into the area where the heart was located. With the such a large amount of sharp of Sword Qi, the python’s heart was instantly ruptured.

Not even looking at the python, he reclaimed the Light Wind Sword into his body and continued to sit down next to the tree. Closing his eyes, he continued to try to recover his spirit. While it looked like he was in a deep meditative state like a monk, in actuality, he was keeping close track of his environment. In an area where magical beasts roamed about, he didn’t dare be careless as he tried to recover his Saint Force.

The four or five foot long python fell from the tree trunk now that it was powerless to stay coiled around it. As it dropped, it released a deep hissing sound before struggling on the ground for a moment before going still.

After another four hours, Jian Chen opened his eyes once more

and stood up on the tree branch. He took out another set of clothes from within his Space Belt and changed into them. Noticing that it was now dark, he began to think for a while before deciding on leaving the area.

Jian Chen carefully looked around himself in case the Tianxiong clan was nearby. At this moment he had fully recovered from his wounds, and even his Saint Force was back to optimal conditions. Now that he was in the Magical Beast Mountain Range with its complicated terrain, Jian Chen was confident that if he were to come across Tianxiong Lie again, he would be able to easily retreat, unlike the fight before where it had occurred in open space.

Just then, a small rustling sound came from behind. The moment he heard that sound, Jian Chen's heart stopped. He quickly leaped up onto a nearby tree branch that was hidden from view thanks to the leaves.

Not too long after, a group of men wearing white slowly came into view.

“This type of lifestyle is exhausting. Having a group of us head into the Magical Beast Mountain Range in order to find just one person without even a single portrait. How are we supposed to look then?” One of the white robed mercenaries complained to the others.

“That's right, we don't even know what this person looks like. Even if we were to come across him, how would we even recognize him?” A bearded middle age man said.

“Eh, my fellow brothers, do you know exactly why the clan leader wanted us to look for this man so badly?” A person said curiously.

“I’ve heard that Tianxiong Kang was killed by this man. Tianxiong Kang is the sole heir to our Tianxiong clan. You tell me, if your son was killed, wouldn’t you be furious?”

“Then of course the clan leader would definitely want to catch this murderer. I’ve heard the Tianxiong clan has already sent 300 of its members into the Magical Beast Mountain Range. Among all those people, the weakest members are Great Saints while there’s around 30 Saint Masters.”

“With the clan leader dispatching that many people into the mountain range, do you think we’ll be able to catch the murderer? After all, the Magical Beast Mountain Range is huge, and it’s hard to say if that man has already escaped from here or not.”

“That can’t be said for sure, but according to the news, the murderer had already been heavily injured by the clan leader. In this giant forest, even if he were to escape, he wouldn’t get far.”

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The group of mercenaries began to idly talk as if they were taking a stroll instead of hunting someone.

Just as these mercenaries walked under the huge tree, the leaves above suddenly swayed as a person darted out with his Light Wind Sword ready to stab into the group below.

“Pch!”

Just as these mercenaries tilted their heads up, the sword had already stabbed in between a man’s eyebrows.

“Everyone be careful, someone’s attacking...” Someone was fast to respond, but before he could even finish his sentence, the Light Wind Sword blurred momentarily before stabbing into his throat.

Chapter 140: The Tianxiong Clan's Retreat

By that point, the rest of the mercenaries finally overcame their surprise and took out their Saint Weapons to fight.

The sword wielding swordsman turned himself over in the air and dodged the incoming strikes before gracefully landing on the ground. The Sword Qi radiating from his sword slowly covered the air around it. It soon also enshrouded the mercenaries within it as well.

By the time the Sword Qi had dissipated, the Tianxiong clan members had all fallen to the ground with a hole in their throats. A trickle of blood leaked from their wounds out onto the earth below.

Taking back his sword, Jian Chen calmly looked at the grounded members before saying, "You've given me quite the useful amount of information. 30 Saint Masters and over 200 Great Saints, the Tianxiong clan really isn't weak at all. To think that they would send that many people into the Magical Beast Mountain Range to find me, it's no wonder they are the number 1 clan in Wake City.

Jian Chen became silent for a moment before his face slowly started to turn into a smile, "So if you aren't going to let me go, then don't blame me for being fierce. I'll play around with you then."

In the blink of an eye, several days had passed, and in the span of those days, Jian Chen had roamed around the place and focused on

dealing with the men from the Tianxiong clan. Although Jian Chen normally wasn't one for revenge, he also wasn't one to not fight back. After being provoked and bullied to such a state by the Tianxiong clan, if he didn't make a move, then he wouldn't be able call himself Jian Chen.

Already the amount of people killed by Jian Chen had reached somewhere in the two hundred range. Among those, there were 10 Saint Master experts, the rest were all Great Saints. With a disastrous loss like this, even for the Tianxiong clan, it would be hard to recover from since they had been damaged down to their roots.

The Tianxiong clan actually knew this well and clear, but they had taken no steps to remedy it. On the contrary, they had instead taken more members from their clan and had them search the Magical Beast Mountain Range in search of Jian Chen's footsteps. Tianxiong Lie definitely wanted to take revenge for his deceased son no matter how heavy a price he would have to pay.

The events that had transpired for the past few days had been known to everyone in Wake City. The Tianxiong clan had been the main ruling power for over 10 years, so Tianxiong Lie's reputation could even be said to be very clear. The permanent residential mercenaries and merchants all knew who Tianxiong Lie was and how strong he was.

The news that the heir of the Tianxiong clan, Tianxiong Kang, was killed and that Tianxiong Lie had brought a group of ferocious looking mercenaries into the Magical Beast Mountain Range to find the assassin had caused a huge commotion in Wake City. This

topic was spoken by mercenaries and merchants alike over a cup of tea and a plate of food. However, whoever was so audacious to kill Tianxiong Kang, no one knew who that person was. The only thing they had known about this mysterious assassin was that he was an extremely young person, every other detail was unknown.

The other clans in Wake City had secretly observed the affairs of the Tianxiong clan. When they realized just how much damage the Tianxiong clan had taken while in the Magical Beast Mountain range, each one of them had begun to prepare their clan to take over and divide up the shares of the Tianxiong clan in the market.

The Tianxiong clan had controlled a large part of Wake City, causing every other clan to be incredibly jealous, but some of them had feared the power of the Tianxiong clan, so they had stayed patient. However, now that the Tianxiong clan had come across such an unexpected accident, their power was no longer the same. Many of the clans couldn't let this opportunity pass by them anymore, and began to stretch out with their hands for the Tianxiong clan's profits.

In the Magical Beast Mountain Range, a group of 20-40 year old worried mercenaries sat in a circle around each other.

“Clan leader, the situation isn't looking to good here. That brat is as treacherous as a devil and has also gained many experiences about how to hunt in a forest. We are at a disadvantage since he holds an advantage with the terrain and has already shaken us off his trail multiple times. Not only that, but this brat is also very strong, many of the smaller groups didn't have the strength to kill him at all and eventually were destroyed. Even if his opponent is

an expert of the Saint Master, he has been able to go against them all the same. So far the amount of people we brought into the Magical Beast Mountain Range has been reduced down to half, but I'm afraid that if things continue on like this, the amount of people we will have left would be countable on our hands." A middle aged man said with concern.

"That's right, clan leader, that brat is far too cunning. If we group together, he takes on an ambush approach in a way that we don't get to see his face and the moment we split up, he comes after us one by one. Not only that, but he is as nimble as a monkey in these forests so we're unable to chase after him. What can we do about that? In our group right now, only my lord would be able to go up against this brat." Another mercenary said with the same amount of worry.

"Clan leader, right now we are at a disadvantage, it would be best to retreat for now and think things over." A frail looking person said.

"Clan leader, right now since we have lost so many members in the Magical Beast Mountain Ranges, our development in Wake City will be halted. We cannot let that happen."

Tianxiong Lie clenched his fist in frustration as his face revealed a hesitant expression. In his heart a fierce struggle was being played.

After some time, Tianxiong Lie bit his lips and spoke out, "Tell everyone to retreat."

“Yes, clan leader!”

Upon hearing this order, each and every mercenary revealed a happy expression as their hearts secretly let loose a breath of air in relief. After facing Jian Chen these past few days, not a single one of them wanted to throw away their lives. It was with good fortune that Tianxiong Lie had been accompanying them. In their eyes, they were deeply afraid of coming across Jian Chen without him.

A person grabbed onto a bamboo chute before setting the fuse on fire. With a shrill whistle, the bamboo chute flew straight up into the air before exploding with a loud bang and transformed into a scarlet fog of smoke that scattered everywhere.

Within the depths of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, there was a group of mercenaries that sat around in a circle and ate some pieces of meat.

“Ai, when this assassin will be captured, I don’t know. The amount of casualties our Tianxiong clan has accumulated has already reached over a large amount, 10 Saint Masters have already died.”

“To be able to kill Saint Masters with ease, with us having only the strength of a Great Saint, I don’t know how long it’ll be before we become a target for him.”

“As long as we don’t come across him, we’ll be fine. Otherwise, we won’t have a life to return home with.”

The mercenaries sat around the fire and chattered among themselves with worry.

At that moment, a loud shrill sound spiraled into the sky. Hearing that, every single mercenary looked up past the tree canopy to see the blossoming fireworks in the sky, leading to a few mercenaries crying out in relief.

“That’s our Tianxiong clan’s retreat signal!” One of the mercenaries cried out in joy.

“We can finally return home! What’s everyone doing just standing around? Let’s hurry up and go home, did you guys want to stay around here or something? That assassin could come at any time and slaughter us like livestock!”

“Right right, let’s hurry up and go. This isn’t a place we should stick around.”

After that, no one was in the mood to eat their food and immediately left the place. Not too long after they left, a shadow dropped down from the trees. This figure was wearing the leather of a magical beast, and already there was the beginning signs of a beard growing on his face.

Seeing the group of mercenaries fade out from sight, the figure revealed a sneer, “So you want to retreat? That’s fine, but just this last time, I hope you let loose one final stream of blood. Whoever offends I, Jian Chen, will not be able to leave so easily.”

Chapter 141: Where Is He?

Now that the Tianxiong clan had renounced their search for Jian Chen, they all immediately started to retreat from the Magical Beast Mountain Range. At the sight of the firework, they all started to move out quickly.

However, Jian Chen didn't plan on letting the Tianxiong clan off that easily. Although, there wasn't much he could do against Tianxiong Lie, against those Great Saints and Saint Masters, he could easily make do with them. Although the Magical Beast Mountain Range usually made it difficult to find other mercenaries, the Tianxiong clan mercenaries were all wearing white and had the Tianxiong emblem on their robes, so finding them was an easy task.

Occasionally, the sounds of battle could be heard in the mountain range. Even as the Tianxiong clan members retreated, many groups still came across Jian Chen and were killed. He had accumulated months of rich experience after living in the Magical Beast Mountain Range and could appear and disappear like a ghost with the help of the complicated terrain. His surprise attacks caused his enemies to be unable to defend themselves. Even the times when Jian Chen was discovered by mercenaries, Jian Chen still surprised and killed them in the end with a single strike.

Even if Jian Chen was encircled by the experts of the Tianxiong clan, he could rely on his superior speed to escape into the forest without a trace. This had pained the Tianxiong clan greatly since none of them could chase him. Even the Middle Saint Masters were unable to come up with a way to chase him.

In half a day, all of the Tianxiong clan had finally gathered together. Seeing that only 100 people remained, Tianxiong Lie was very depressed. In the beginning, they had entered the Magical Beast Mountain Range with half a thousand mercenaries, he didn't think that in just a few days time, they would lose over 400 members. To the Tianxiong clan, this was a serious loss.

A serious glint of murderous intent radiated from Tianxiong Lie for a split second as his desire to kill Jian Chen had reached unprecedented levels. Not only did he kill his Kang Er, but he had even caused a tremendous amounts of damage to the Tianxiong clan. Right now Tianxiong Lie wanted to do nothing more than devour Jian Chen's flesh and drink his blood.

Seeing the gloomy face on Tianxiong Lie, every mercenary in the vicinity felt a tightness in their throats. No one dared to say a word in case they invoked the wrath of Tianxiong Lie. At this moment, no one dared to say anything that could possibly offend him.

"Let's go!" Tianxiong Lie waved his hand with a gloomy face. As he lead them away from the area, he knew that after experiencing such a loss, it would be very hard to say that the Tianxiong Clan was still the number 1 clan in Wake City.

The remaining Tianxiong mercenaries walked through the forest without any magical beasts daring to attack them. However, an air of depression emanated from this group, they were clearly listless, and their spirits were low.

Behind them was a leather wearing figure that was closely following them nimbly through the trees. He moved in a way that the nearby tall grass barely moved at all, and even though he was no more than 50 meters away from the Tianxiong group, the Tianxiong clan members did not notice him and continued to walk onward. Because of the loud sounds they were making, they were unable to hear the even more minute sounds that their follower was creating.

The person behind them was very cautious, using the tall grass to conceal his movements, he quickly followed closeby. In a few seconds, he was within 20 meters without being noticed yet.

At that moment, the bright and shiny glint of a sword appeared in the man's hands. Still hidden by the grass, the man disappeared into a blur and flew behind the back most mercenary of the Tianxiong clan.

Crossing over the 20 meters dividing him and the group of mercenaries, the man's sword glinted as it swished through the air and stabbed at the very last person in the group.

The sword flashed several times as it moved at inconceivable speeds, stabbing through the necks of 5 mercenaries.

Without stopping there, his silver sword became a blur once more as he stabbed at the throats of another 3 people in a split second.

“Everyone be careful, that man's here!”

Just as those 8 mercenaries were killed in a lightning fast speed, one mercenary finally came to the realization that they were under attack and yelled out a warning for everyone.

Upon hearing the warning, every mercenary pulled out their Saint Weapon and stared around themselves. However, just as the first man spoke, the assailant had already retreated back into the foliage just as quickly as he appeared.

“Stay still, don’t even think about escaping!”

A roar boomed from behind as Tianxiong Lie leaped forward with his axe in hand. Chasing after the man, the other 20 Saint Masters then followed suit.

Seeing Tianxiong Lie and the other Saint Masters chase after the man, the remaining Tianxiong clan members let out a breath of relief. Their previously nervous expressions laxed by a large amount as well. For the past few days, they had been terrorized by this man who had killed many of their strong brothers. It was with good reason that they were afraid of him, wondering just when it would be their turn to be the ones on the ground by his hands.

Suddenly, just as they let out a sigh in relief, the tall grass split open as a silver sword flew out from it in a brilliant show of light.

“Pch!” “Pch!”

Two mercenaries then fell to the ground with their throats stabbed through.

This sudden movement had disturbed many men, the moment they saw this, each and every mercenary there had turned pale with fright, “Everyone be careful, he’s here!”

Before the man could finish talking, a leather wearing man came out from the dense foliage with his sword at the ready to stab into the nearest person.

The remaining Tianxiong clan members all held their Saint Weapons up, since they held the advantage with numbers, they all started to spread out in a ring to entrap the invading person inside.

Even after being encircled, the leather wearing person didn’t have a frantic expression on his face. Holding his sword in his right hand, he continued to defend himself against the attacks that came at him from every direction. His speed was so fast, it caused his attackers to be speechless, but these men were only at the Great Saint level, so when it was his turn to attack, they saw little to no opportunity to dodge.

Following the continuous string of collisions, the leather wearing man lashed out with his sword, stabbing into the throats of 5 different mercenaries with a hazy glow of Sword Qi following his sword.

After killing those 5 mercenaries, the man didn’t continue fighting, instead he opted to run from the encirclement. Entering the foliage, he disappeared without a trace as the remaining mercenaries were powerless to stop him.

Not too long after his escape, an earth attributed Saint Force flew into the area as Tianxiong Lie returned with the other Saint Masters. Looking around the area, all he could see was the corpses on the ground without any signs of their assailant.

“Where is he?!” Tianxiong Lie roared furiously as he asked the mercenaries there.

Chapter 142: Tianxiong Clan's Heavy Losses

“He ran out over there!” A person pointed to where the man ran off to.

Hearing that, Tianxiong Lie turned his glare over to where a mercenary pointed. At this moment, the tall grass was shaking slightly, because someone had only just recently passed through, there remained a clear trace of someone's trail.

Tianxiong Lie returned his gaze over to the dead bodies on the floor with a gloomy face. In the brief moment he was gone, another 15 people had died. He was afraid that if things continued on like this, he wouldn't even have 50 people by the time he left the Magical Beast Mountain Range. With such heavy losses, there would be no way for the Tianxiong clan to recover from this.

The 20 Saint Masters that had followed Tianxiong Lie stood behind him silently. Looking at the dozen dead bodies on the ground, every single one of them had a face that was unprecedentedly serious.

“Continue onward!” Tianxiong Lie ordered. After these past few days, he knew in his heart that in the complicated terrain of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, he was completely unable to kill the youth that killed his son Kang Er. If things continued on like this, then his army would be utterly destroyed.

“For now, the current formation will be changed. Every 5 Saint Masters will spread out in one group for each of the four

directions, and the Great Saints will be in the middle. Maintain this formation while moving forward.” Tianxiong Lie spoke. For a youth that wasn’t on his level to reduce him to such a state was an unwashable disgrace.

Soon after, the Tianxiong clan followed Tianxiong Lie’s change in formation and continued to journey through the mountain range. Now that they had been attacked by surprise once, everyone was extremely vigilant of their surroundings, their eyes constantly swept around their surroundings wary of suffering from another surprise attack.

Tianxiong Lie stood in the center of the formation with his inner Saint Force constantly on the move inside his body. He just needed for the youth to appear once more, no matter what the position, Tianxiong Lie would be able to respond quickly.

Tianxiong Lie’s eyes swept the area in front of him as his ears trembled as he strained them to listen for any closeby movements.

“As long as you appear, even if there is a heavy cost, I will kill you.” Tianxiong Lie resolved.

The group walked through the dense forest slowly. In regards to this killer after them, they didn’t dare to move too quickly in case they made noise that would mask over the minute sounds of their stalker.

Just as the Tianxiong clan was about to step over the boundary where the tall grass stopped, the figure of a person darted out from

the grass, and in a split second, he had stabbed through the hearts and throats of a few mercenaries.

“Don’t even think about running away this time!”

Just as that mysterious figure had stabbed into the throats of a few mercenaries, an angry snarl came from the middle of the formation. Tianxiong Lie’s gigantic earth attributed axe flew out at him following the figures movements.

At the same time, the Saint Masters in the group immediately leapt forward with their Saint Weapons ready to slash at their foe.

That man had no desire to fight with everyone. Reclaiming his Saint Weapon into his body, he darted out of the group and then out of sight into the tall grass once more.

“You all stay here, I will chase after him.” Tianxiong Lie roared before dashing into the tall grass after the man.

This area of grass was tall enough to completely conceal a person within its expanse, and that leather wearing person was moving through the grass with a nimble and quick speed. Very rarely did he make a sloppy mistake, and he maintained that fast speed without making the tiniest of sounds as if his body was gliding instead of running. Not a single bit of weight had touched the ground as he ran, it was like he was using the grass for support instead of the ground.

“You won’t escape this time! If I don’t kill you today, then I will never be able to remove this hatred from my heart!” Tianxiong Lie chased after the man. His speed had already reached the very pinnacle of his limits as the earth Saint Force flew off like smoke from his legs. With his legs constantly stamping across the ground, he was no slower than the man he was chasing.

The leather wearing man began to constantly change directions, and so too did Tianxiong Lie who was following closely behind in the tall grass yet he was unable to keep his eyes on the figure in front. Every so often he would have to jump into the air,

At this moment, a fierce gale blew through the tall grass, creating a crashing sound throughout the area and causing Tianxiong Lie who was chasing after the man to pale. Stamping off of the ground, he leaped into the air and examined the ground below only to become dejected. He had lost sight of the man’s traces.

“This damnable wind didn’t come early or late, instead, it came right on time so that I lost sight of that man!”

Examining his surroundings, Tianxiong Lie had a face full of resentment, and couldn’t help but curse out in anger. Afterward, he leaped into the air once more unwilling to give up. Looking down, he tried to find traces of the man, but he could not because of the gale that was still continuing to blow, causing all of the tall grass to constantly sway in the wind and making tracking impossible.

“I definitely won’t let you go, if you’re a man, then leave behind your name!” Tianxiong Lie roared up at the sky. His voice scattered

through the air, causing echos to be heard from far away.

Not too long after, a clear laughter could be heard.

“Hahaha, this one is called Jian Chen. Tianxiong clan, one day I will make another visit, so until that day comes, I hope the clan leader will not worry about me.”

“Jian Chen. Good, good, good! I, Tianxiong Lie swear that even if you escape to the ends of the earth, I will find you! You won’t ever escape!” Tianxiong Lie roared.

This time, there was no response.

Tianxiong Lie couldn’t reply anymore, and instead continued to lead the remaining Tianxiong clan members out of the Magical Beast Mountain Range. Very quickly they walked away from the grassy areas, and because of that, they no longer came across any surprise attacks.

Returning to Wake City, Tianxiong Lie immediately traveled to the Mercenary Union and placed a high bounty on Jian Chen of ten thousand purple coins for the capture of him alive with his details posted under.

Right afterward, the entire Wake City exploded with activity once more. Ten thousand purple coins. Such an expensive bounty was a never before seen event in Wake City history, and a price this high was rare to see in the entire Tian Yuan Continent. To add

onto that, the Mercenary Union had bumped up the mission grade to A Rank, making it a special mission. It wasn't restricted to just mercenaries, as this mission was then sent out to the following nations neighboring the Blue Wind Kingdom.

Right at this moment, Jian Chen wasn't aware that the warrant for his capture had been put up with such a high price once more. Right now, he was still in the Magical Beast Mountain Range washing his body.

“My current strength should be around the Peak Great Saint tier already. These next few days, I should hunt for a few magical beasts in the mountain range and make a breakthrough into the Saint Master level. This way, if I come across Tianxiong Lie in the future, I won't be considered a weak opponent to him.” Jian Chen thought to himself as he quickly made plans for the future.

Chapter 143: Tortoise Beast

“Ai!” Suddenly, Jian Chen let out a sound of surprise from the water edge. After he had washed away the sweat and filth, he stared at his body, only to discover that his skin had surprisingly turned a deep shade of red, completely unlike his usual skin color.

“What’s going on here, how did my body turn red?” Jian Chen cried out in astonishment with his eyebrows raised. After thinking about it for some time, his face relaxed and he broke out into a smile. Muttering to himself excitedly, he said, “This is what the books said would happen; this situation means that the anti venom of the Silver Striped Golden Snake has completely fused with my bloodstream. I didn’t think that it would fuse together in only a month’s time, nor did I think that the anti venom of the Silver Striped Golden Snake coursing through my body would make such a change. If my body continues to refine the Thousand Immunity, then it will eventually gain the ability to reproduce the anti venom on its own, and by then, I will have truly perfected the Thousand Immunity.”

“Once I perfect the Thousand Immunity, all of the blood that my body makes will naturally contain the anti venom. So I don’t need to worry about my body losing any blood with anti venom anymore.”

Jian Chen carefully inspected his body just in case there was any other changes to it other than his skin becoming a red color. However, there were no other changes; everything else was exactly the same as before.

Jian Chen leapt out of the river to where his crude leather clothes were, and began to change into them. Since he had decided to cultivate in the Magical Beast Mountain Range until he broke through to Saint Master level, Jian Chen didn't want to switch out of his simple clothing. He hadn't had enough time to buy a new set of spare clothes during his last return to Wake City from the mountain range, since he was unwilling to fill his Space Belt with countless amounts of clothes that would just be wasted out here. Because of the complicated terrain and all of its thistles and thorns, any clothes worn here would be quickly ruined. Even if he did bring several sets of clothes, he wouldn't want change into them just for that reason.

Jian Chen continued on deeper into the mountain range where the Class 3 Magical Beasts roamed, staying there for a few days.

As the next couple of days passed, Jian Chen continued on as usual. In the daytime, he would look for the traces of magical beasts and kill them. At night, he would use the monster cores to cultivate. However, because he hadn't prepared any repellant herbs for mosquitos and other poisonous insects, every night was a night of torment for him as they harassed Jian Chen. It was a good thing that Jian Chen had the primary step of the Thousand Immunity down, so he didn't have to worry about the poisonous bites of the insects. Plus, because he could control light Saint Force, the remaining swelling or other injuries he did sustain were immediately treated, and disappeared without a trace.

During the past few days, Jian Chen had already reached the Peak Great Saint level. Adding onto the fact that he had been fighting Class 3 Magical Beasts every day, his originally exquisite swordplay became even more perfect from this refinement. As his

strength grew, the power of his physical body also gradually increased. Although it was still far from reaching invulnerability, it undoubtedly provided him an extremely durable body that could fully utilize his nimble swordplay. After all, if he wanted to increase his speed, the toll on his body would be extremely high. If his body's resilience wasn't enough, a simple fist that used all his strength would most likely cause his arm to throb in pain, as if blood wasn't flowing through it. If he ceaselessly maintained his lightning-fast swordplay, the greatest merit it would provide would be in his cultivation of the profound Azulet Sword Law, especially for its first layer of techniques, "Refined Body". It would not only help strengthen every cell in Jian Chen's body, it would also make his body softer and yet still possess an exceedingly strong toughness.

Under these various conditions, Jian Chen's weaknesses were worked in a way that improved and helped condition Jian Chen's sword strokes to be even harder to dodge.

After becoming a Great Saint, killing Class 3 Magical Beasts was a great deal easier than before. Nearly 40 magical beasts died from Jian Chen's hands every day.

Right now somewhere in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, Jian Chen and another gigantic Class 3 Magical Beast were fighting. The magical beast was the size of several cattle, and its entire body was covered with fine scales as a layer of defense.

Jian Chen's body was like a speed demon as he continued to run in circles around the magical beast. The Light Wind Sword in his hand was like a sharp silver ray of light as it continuously struck

against the scales of the magical beast. The density and toughness of the scales on the magical beast were extraordinary, so even if Jian Chen really wanted to break through them, he would have a hard time doing so. In addition, the magical beast was humongous. Even if the Light Wind Sword did pierce through the beast's body, the blade would not harm the beast in the slightest, unless fatal.

Just as the magical beast started to shake, Jian Chen saw his chance. In a flash of lightning, he stabbed at the throat of the magical beast and pierced straight through it.

Unfortunately, after Jian Chen stabbed through its throat, the magical beast still did not die. Letting out a destitute roar, it began to charge at Jian Chen with a ferocity even more intense than before.

“This tortoise magical beast is at the peak of a Class 3 Magical Beast level. It is even about to reach the Class 4 Magical Beast level; no wonder its vitality is this strong. It seems that if I want to take care of this quickly, I will have to take action from within his body. Otherwise, unless I behead it will be very difficult to kill.” Jian Chen muttered as he looked at the magical beast in front of him. Not only was the magical beast strong in terms of defense, but its vitality was extraordinary as well. Even after Jian Chen had stabbed into its throat, it still didn't die; rather, the matter had infuriated it further.

While Jian Chen and this tortoise magical beast were battling, a group of mercenaries came into the battlefield. There were 20 men in that group with faces so filled with mud, that aside from their ages, no other distinguishing traits were visible. About half of

them were wearing leather skinned clothing while the other half had clothes that were in extremely poor conditions. Two of the mercenaries were even wrapped up completely in bandages; their blood could easily be seen bleeding underneath the wrappings, signifying that they were heavily wounded.

The moment this group of mercenaries saw the tortoise magical beast fight with Jian Chen right in front of their eyes, they immediately let out a surprised shout.

“That seems to be Jian Chen!”

Chapter 144: Black Leopard Mercenaries

Hearing this, the entire group of mercenaries became startled and looked over at Jian Chen with careful eyes.

“A medium sized build around the age of 20 years old. Wields a slender sized silver long sword with rapid speeds while being nimble. Captain, this man resembles the one on the bounty posters put up by the Tianxiong clan in the Mercenary Union. In my opinion, this is definitely Jian Chen.” A leather hide wearing mercenary said next to another mercenary whose clothes were still intact.

“That’s right, captain, I’m absolutely sure this person is Jian Chen. The Tianxiong clan has put out a ten thousand purple coin reward for the capture of Jian Chen. If we can capture him, then those ten thousand purple coins will be ours.” Another shriveled mercenary spoke.

Another man spoke out softly, “I can see that this Jian Chen won’t be so easy to handle. Do you guys not see how he is single handedly fighting against that Class 3 Magical Beast?”

“What are you afraid of? No matter how awesome he is, he is only one person while we are many. Don’t tell me you’re afraid of a single person. If word of this spreads out, then our Black Leopard Mercenaries will have no face left to preserve in Wake City.” Another leather hide wearing mercenary said with a muffled voice.

“What he’s saying is right. Even if he’s amazing, he’s still only

one person. Could it be that our Black Leopard Mercenaries are afraid of a single 20 year old kid?”

At that moment, a calm looking person opened his mouth, “Okay, everyone stop arguing. Listen to the captain’s opinion.” After he had finished speaking, everyone had stopped talking and turned to look at the person who was at the front of the group. Out of everyone in the mercenary group, only he could be considered to have clothes that were in perfect condition.

He was the leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries.

The leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries was very tall at the height of 2.5 meters and had a sturdy build. The hair on his head was cut to a short length on his large face, but it was rather ordinary to look at, and one would have trouble remembering the details of him if asked. He was wearing black robes that only had a few scratches from the thistle and thorns of the forest.

The leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries stared closely at the battle between Jian Chen and the tortoise magical beast with a look of hesitancy. After a few moments of unwavering emotions reflected across his eyes, he finally came to a conclusion. “No matter how amazing he is, he still 20 years old after all, he can’t be a match for the entire group of ours. Besides, there is only one Class 3 Magical Beast fighting against him. Let’s wait for the beast to consume all of his Saint Force and deal him some damage before we immediately capture Jian Chen and bring him to the Tianxiong clan for that ten thousand purple coin prize.”

“What a marvelous decision, captain. This matter is over then,

our group will definitely flourish. Ten thousand purple coins, ah, even after splitting it, this will be enough for our entire lifetime.” One person sighed happily.

“After this is over, I will definitely go to Romance City and have lady Yun Xiu serve me for a few days.” Another mercenary laughed.

“Hehe, Jie Li, every time that brothel from Romance City is mentioned, you begin to drool. It’s a shame you have never had the money to enjoy its pleasures. Wait until this is over, then you will be able to take that Yun Xiu back home as your wife without any problems.” A man with a beard had laughed.

Hearing that, the previous mercenary laughed and then stared at Jian Chen almost as if he were staring at a mountain of gold.

“Ao!”

At that moment, a blood curdling roar came from far away. The mercenaries looked at the origin only to see Jian Chen had stabbed into the tortoise’s throat. There was a strong amount of Sword Qi that not only stabbed into its throat, but straight into its body with an explosive entrance before impacting against its inner organs.

The tortoise continued to shriek as its gigantic body froze up and slowly crashed into the ground with a resounding boom.

“Forward!”

Just as the tortoise magical beast fell to the ground, the leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries lead his group toward Jian Chen with the rest of the mercenaries following straight behind.

The expression on Jian Chen's face didn't change at all. Slowly pulling out his Light Wind Sword from the throat of the tortoise magical beast, he walked to the belly of the beast as if nothing were happening and with a flash of a large amount of Sword Qi, he thrust his sword deep into its stomach. Immediately, a large wound appeared on the belly as Jian Chen stabbed deep within. A bloodstained item then flowed out with the blood before rolling to a stop in front of him.

Jian Chen crouched down to the bloody earth and wiped the blood off the item revealing it to be a small crystal, it was the tortoise's monster core.

Seeing how Jian Chen hadn't even spared them a glance as if he held the Black Leopard Mercenaries in disdain, the mercenary group suddenly felt gloomy.

The leader of the mercenary group looked at Jian Chen and spoke, "Jian Chen, I cannot determine your age, but you look very calm, especially in a moment like this where you should feel frantic instead."

Jian Chen calmly stored the monster core into his Space Belt before raising his head up to look at the Black Leopard Mercenaries to say calmly, "Who are you? How do you know my name?"

Hearing that answer, the Black Leopard Mercenaries leader revealed a small cold smile, “We are the Black Leopard mercenaries. As for how we know your name, hehe, that’s simple. Your name is of well renown in Wake City especially, everyone knows who you are.”

Jian Chen scowled slightly, “Speak, what is your goal then.”

“Our goal is simple, now if you will kindly go with us.”

Even before Jian Chen could speak, another mercenary had spoke up.

“That’s right, we only wish for you to come with us. Now be an obedient youngster, and our Black Leopard Mercenaries won’t treat you too badly.” A shriveled mercenary laughed.

Jian Chen revealed a cold smile, “This one isn’t sure where you want to go.”

“Where else? Of course we go back to Wake City.” A man said with a muffled voice.

Hearing that city name, Jian Chen immediately guessed that this had to do with the Tianxiong clan.

“And if I don’t go back with you?” Jian Chen looked at the 20

mercenaries with a calm voice. No matter what angle they looked at him, not a single trace of fear could be seen on it.

Hearing this, the members of the Black Leopard Mercenaries began to laugh as one of the taller mercenaries took out his Saint Weapon, it was a 3 meter long spear.

“If you don’t come back with us, then we will have to take you in by force. Jian Chen, I presume you wouldn’t want to feel any suffering.” The captain of the Black Leopard Mercenaries said.

After hearing their leader, every other mercenary began to take out their own Saint Weapons, causing the air to fluctuate with the Saint Force as they stalked toward Jian Chen.

Chapter 145: Yet Another Profit

“Jian Chen, I’ll give you one last chance; come with us obediently and quietly, or we’ll take you in by force. If you make us show our hand, then a beating will be hard to avoid.” The leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries gave a level stare at Jian Chen, who didn’t say a single word.

Jian Chen then chuckled and revealed a smile full of disdain as he spoke, “With only your Peak Saint Master strength, you don’t have the qualifications to speak of such things to me. Today, we shall see if you will be able to capture me, or if each and every single one of you will die by my hand, one by one.” As he spoke, a hazy glow of Sword Qi began to circulate around his Light Wind Sword. Immediately afterward, Jian Chen’s figure blurred as he moved toward the mercenary group. In an instant, he reappeared right in front of the weakest looking mercenary, and swung his sword with a stunning speed.

“You’re looking for death!”

“Brat, you’re too arrogant!”

Just as Jian Chen began to move, the other members of the Black Leopard Mercenaries all cried out in anger as they charged at him.

“Pch! Pch! Pch.....”

The instant they took one step forward, Jian Chen stabbed into the throats of three mercenaries with lightning quick speed. Since

Jian Chen's attack was so sudden, those of the Primary Great Saint level didn't have any time to react at all. Thus, the Light Wind Sword pierced into their throats and ended their lives.

Without any hesitation, Jian Chen pulled out his sword and began to fight with the surrounding Black Leopard Mercenaries in an intense battle. Although they held the advantage in numbers, the number of enemies that were consistently trying to hit Jian Chen numbered only around 7. The rest surrounded Jian Chen so that he would have no way to escape. At the same time, they would be able to jump in at any time to provide assistance if needed.

Among the 7 mercenaries that were fighting Jian Chen, there were 5 Saint Masters and 2 Great Saints. The people of the Black Leopard Mercenaries weren't stupid, they knew that a person capable of incurring the wrath of the Tianxiong clan couldn't possibly be weak. Thus, the 5 Saint Masters attacked him at the same time.

Jian Chen, however, was handling the 5 Saint Masters and the 2 Great Saints with ease. Previously, when he only had the strength of a Middle Great Saint, he had already dared to face the many Saint Master experts of the Tianxiong clan. Obviously, now that his strength had already improved to the Peak Great Saint level, he'd have no problem fighting these mercenaries. He was now only one step away from reaching Saint Master level.

Although the increase in level from Middle to Peak Great Saint was a small one in name, Jian Chen's strength had multiplied greatly during this period. Now that he had Peak Great Saint powers, the simultaneous attacks from the 5 Saint Masters wasn't

as difficult to deal with as his previous experience in Wake City.

Jian Chen's sword was unparalleled in speed, striking out in all directions as an offense and defense at the unbelievably fast speed of light. The Light Wind Sword continued to collide with the other Saint Weapons, causing metallic clanging sounds to screech out. After each collision, the strong amount of Saint Force from the weapons would diffuse through the area, causing dust and smoke to pervade the air.

Jian Chen's sword began to speed up even more as it blocked the other Saint Weapons. It then flashed out like silver lightning, piercing two of the Great Saint's throats.

“Charlie!”

“Cheng Buping!”

Seeing two people die in front of them, the Black Leopard Mercenaries let out painful cries at the loss of their 2 Great Saints. Those who had a great relationship with the ones who had just died immediately roared in anger as they charged at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen dodged out of the circle the Saint Masters had put up and began to fight intensely with the Great Saints. After a few flashes of his sword, more mercenaries had their throats and hearts pierced, and died as well.

“You dare to kill the members of our Black Leopard Mercenaries?”

You're courting death, Jian Chen!" The leader of the Black Leopard grew furious after seeing so many people die by the hands of Jian Chen, and he rushed toward to stab Jian Chen with his long spear.

Almost as if he had eyes on the back of his head, Jian Chen suddenly turned around and thrust his long sword out.

"Ding!"

The sound of steel meeting steel rang out as the silver Light Wind Sword and the long spear clashed with each other in mid air. As the two came into contact, Jian Chen didn't take a single step back; instead, he stepped past the spear toward the captain, and with a flash of his blade, the Light Wind Sword stabbed into the throat of the leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries. With a squelch, the tip of the bloody sword appeared on the other side of the man's throat.

The leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries grew stiff as he stared at the sword in his throat with disbelief. His pupils rolled around furiously as he stared at Jian Chen and spoke with difficulty, "H...how could I...I...how could I...die by your...hand?"

"Captain!"

"Captain!"

"Captain Kargil!"

Seeing their leader stabbed through his throat, the expressions of all the mercenaries changed. After standing there in a daze for a while, they all began to shout in alarm.

“He has killed Captain Kargil! My brothers, let’s avenge the captain’s death...”

“Avenge Captain Kargil...”

“Everyone forward, kill this Jian Chen!”

The mercenaries suddenly became motivated once more as they charged at Jian Chen.

“How reckless!” Jian Chen sneered as he pulled out his sword. The blade flashed as he charged towards the foremost people, instantly penetrating a few more throats.

Jian Chen’s figure nimbly flashed through the crowd as he stabbed out at the people with wild abandonment. The mercenaries fighting against him fell one by one as they faced up against Jian Chen’s superbly fast sword. Those who had the strength of a Great Saint didn’t have the ability to defend themselves. Even the Saint Masters weren’t able to hold up for very long.

In a short moment, another 10 mercenaries had died at Jian Chen’s sword, leaving behind 2 Saint Masters and 4 Great Saints.

The 6 people had already lost their wills to fight. They exchanged mutual looks with each other, knowing that continuing on this road would end with death. The only road left to take was to run. With this thought, the 6 mercenaries immediately spread out in 4 directions without any hesitation in an effort to escape Jian Chen.

Jian Chen sneered. His gaze swept across the area, eventually landing on a Great Saint mercenary. His body flickered slightly as he chased after the Great Saint with extreme speed. As for the other 5 mercenaries, Jian Chen took no heed of them.

That Great Saint who had been trying to escape from Jian Chen's pursuit was blocked off by him in the blink of an eye.

"You! What are you going to do?!" Seeing Jian Chen appear right in front of him, the mercenary's face grew pale as he began to shake and timidly pulled out his Saint Weapon.

The Light Wind Sword disappeared from Jian Chen's hand as he crossed both arms across his chest. Staring at the mercenary who was close to his age, he said indifferently, "Do you wish to live?"

"Of course!" That mercenary replied almost instantaneously. But the question then registered in his mind, and his expression grew hopeful as he asked incredulously, "Could it be you're willing to let me go?"

"Letting you go won't make much of a difference to me, and killing you will have no meaning either. As long as you cooperate

with me and tell me what I need to know, then I will let you go.”

Hearing Jian Chen, the mercenary revealed a joyful expression. “Okay, as long as you let me go, I will definitely tell you all I know without hiding a single thing.”

Jian Chen nodded his head and said, “Let me ask you, what method is the Tianxiong clan using to deal with me, and how did your group recognize me?”

Without hesitation, the mercenary immediately replied, “The Tianxiong Clan used the Mercenary Union to place a ten thousand purple coin bounty on you. At the same time, they publicized some of your traits. That’s why we immediately recognized you as the person that the Tianxiong clan had placed a high bounty of based on your fight with the Tortoise Beast.”

Jian Chen frowned. The Tianxiong clan placing such a high bounty on his capture was something far out of his expectations.

After some hesitation, Jian Chen’s eyes brightened as he smiled darkly, “I can let you go now, but you must do one task for me.”

“What task? As long as I, Shu Kelin can find a way, I will definitely do it.” That mercenary vowed in an exceptionally resolute tone, most likely in hopes of Jian Chen believing him.

“When you return to Wake City, I want you to spread the news everywhere that I am in the Magical Beast Mountain Range. I want

everyone to know that I am here, do you understand?” Jian Chen stared firmly at him.

“Understood, I understand,” Although he didn’t know what Jian Chen was up to, this mercenary still immediately replied to him without asking questions. He was afraid that if he made Jian Chen angry, his life would be forfeit.

Jian Chen thought for another second before continuing, “Also, tell them that I am seriously injured, got it?”

“Got it, got it. Don’t worry, I will definitely tell everyone what you want to be said.” The mercenary hurriedly replied.

Jian Chen nodded his head and waved his hand, “You can go.”

Almost as if that man had received an amnesty, he immediately began to run as fast as he could away from the area. Based on his appearance, it seemed as if he was afraid that Jian Chen would change his mind and take his life in the end.

Jian Chen looked at the dozens of corpses on the ground and took their Space Belts. Walking over to a clean area, he began to take inventory of the things in each Space Belt. In the end, there was over 100 monster cores, several dozen purple coins, 300 gold coins and a few other essentials.

Chapter 146: Breakthrough Into A Saint Master

Jian Chen looked through all of the monster cores the Black Leopard Mercenaries had. Among the 100 monster cores, a great amount of them were Class 3 Monster Cores and the rest were Class 2 Monster Cores. Just seeing the amount of monster cores painstakingly collected was proof of how long the mercenaries had stayed in the mountain range.

It was a shame that because of their greed, many of them had lost their lives by Jian Chen's hands, and their bountiful harvest of monster cores was taken from them for Jian Chen to use. Their rewards for their painstaking labor had been taken by someone else.

Jian Chen happily stored the 100 monster cores into his own Space Belt. Although he could personally get 20 or 30 monster cores in a single day, these 100 monster cores were not a small amount. With this amount, he would be able to sustain his cultivation for a few days.

"I hope that mercenary has accomplished the task I gave him. Ten thousand purple coins as a bounty, isn't a small amount at all. I'm willing to bet many mercenaries will be tempted by it." Jian Chen muttered to himself before revealing an expectant smile. "I hope there are enough monster cores in their bags, this will be a great source of profit. The wage for avarice is death. Since they are trying to deal with me as a result of being unable to resist temptation, they can't blame me for being merciless." As he spoke, a flash of murderous intent radiated from Jian Chen.

“For the next two days, I should work hard to improve my strength. Otherwise, if I come across a strong group, even though they may not be able to seize me, dealing with them will be quite difficult. Moreover, I still need to be able to defend myself from Peak Great Saint Masters. With my current strength, going against Peak Saint Masters isn’t a problem, but if I come across a Peak Great Saint Master, that could potentially be dangerous. If it doesn’t go well, I might have to run away.”

“While Wake City is only a Class 3 City with a few Great Saint Masters, that doesn’t mean there are none to be seen. Just like the rarity of phoenix feathers and unicorn horns, nobody can guarantee that there wouldn’t be any Great Saint Masters would come at me as a result of being unable to turn down the temptation of ten thousand purple coins. It seems that I need to quickly breakthrough into the Saint Master level so that if I were to fight against Great Saint Master experts, I would still have a chance.” After he made his plans, Jian Chen decided to not kill any more magical beasts and instead walked over to the side of a hill, where there was plenty of vegetation growing through the cracks of a steep rock face.

Jian Chen walked up to the wall and gently pushed away the tall grass to reveal a hole. This cavern had been discovered by Jian Chen 2 days ago.

Taking out a few materials from his Space Belt, he fashioned a torch and walked straight into the cavern. The passageway was very narrow; only one person would be able to walk over the uneven surfaces. Traces of handprints and footprints could be seen all over the place, showing that this cavern had been artificially

expanded.

Following the curved, 30 meter long pathway, Jian Chen finally reached the end of the cavern. The circumference of the dead end was around 10 meters, and it had a height of 3 meters. The ground was very flat, and a stone table and bench sat nearby.

Two days before, when he had just discovered the cavern, Jian Chen had already known that others had stayed in this cavern for quite a while. However, a thick layer of dust covered the ground, clearly indicating that it had been ages since a person had last come here.

After inspecting the cavern and confirming the security of it, Jian Chen stuck his torch onto the wall and sat down in the central point of the dead end while taking out a few Class 2 Monster Cores to cultivate. He was definitely safer in this hidden cavern compared to the open outside mountain range, and it allowed Jian Chen to freely enter a state of cultivation as he pleased.

After hunting for a few days in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, he had amassed a large amount of monster cores. Adding onto the hundreds of monster cores he had gained from the Black Leopard Mercenaries, the amount of monster cores in Jian Chen's possession was enough for him to cultivate for one full month. Jian Chen wasn't at all worried about a shortage of monster cores.

The energy within the monster cores became absorbed into Jian Chen's body at alarming speeds. The powerful energy gathered around his body, and was already gradually condensing into an extremely weak light. Because of the azure and violet glows within

his dantian, Jian Chen's cultivation rate had improved a hundred times over, but at the same time, the two glows robbed him of his cultivation. Jian Chen would only see a small part of what he absorbed and cultivated. Despite this, his cultivation speed was still a bit faster than before.

Within Jian Chen's dantian, the strong Saint Force began to form the hazy shape of a "sword"; although very blurry, it actually looked very similar to his Light Wind Sword to the point where even the handle of the sword could be more or less distinguished. As Jian Chen continued to absorb the stream of energy within the monster cores, the sword within his dantian began to condense with Saint Force slowly as it expanded outwards.

"According to this speed, I will soon be able to breakthrough into the Saint Master level. I estimate that it should take me from ten days to half a month. But still, that won't do, that is too slow." Jian Chen furrowed his eyebrows in thought. Because of his dantian, all of the energy from the monster cores was being robbed from him, causing him to feel a bit dissatisfied.

"Let's see if I can take that energy back." Suddenly, Jian Chen's heart shook as he began to concentrate on stealing the energy back from the two glows in his dantian. However, the speed in which the azure and violet glow was absorbing the energy was far too fast. Even when using all of his strength, he was only able to take back a small amount of energy.

Despite this result, Jian Chen was still extremely satisfied. With this small amount of energy, his cultivation speed had improved by a good ten or twenty percent. If he were to continue with this

speed, it wouldn't take him more than a few days to make the breakthrough.

In the cavern, Jian Chen was in a deep state of cultivation, but outside of the Magical Beast Mountain Range in Wake City, the entire city was in an uproar.

When the news had escaped from the mercenary's mouth, no one knew whether or not it was genuine, but it had still caused every single mercenary to give it some thought.

This person had a bounty placed on him for ten thousand purple coins. Although he was in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, he was alone and badly injured, so his strength would be sharply declining.

This piece of unconfirmable news had made many mercenaries travel to the Magical Beast Mountain Range in hopes to confirm it. They had to make sure since it was ten thousand purple coins, and since the target was only a young man who was barely 20 years old, this was a simple task in the eyes of many people. The only trouble they would have would be to locate him.

With a mission that had a target like this, there weren't many people that could resist the temptation of ten thousand purple coins. Despite many people telling them that the target this time was not weak at all and had even caused the Tianxiong clan to take a heavy loss, these mercenaries still had no fear.

After a few days of Jian Chen staying in the Magical Beast

Mountain Range, many cities around Wake City had already heard the news of Jian Chen being seriously injured. Many mercenaries had already begun to rush towards Wake City in huge numbers.

Seeing the situation swell up like this, a few of the lone mercenaries who had confidence in their strength and luck looked toward the Magical Beast Mountain Range. To them, they would take advantage of this situation for their own advantage.

In a flash, 7 days had passed. In the caverns of the Magical Beast Mountain range, Jian Chen was sitting with his legs crossed on the ground while he cultivated. The torch on the wall had long since been extinguished, causing it to be completely pitch dark to the point of not being able to see his hands in front of his face.

These past few days, Jian Chen had been in a cultivational state for almost the entire time. With the continuous increase in his inner Saint Force, Jian Chen could clearly feel that his strength was improving by leaps and bounds. While he had cultivated, he didn't move a single inch, aside from the times he needed to change the monster cores in his hand. Although, once he swapped the monster cores, he would go straight back to cultivating.

Jian Chen hadn't eaten a single meal or took a sip of water while cultivating. He had sunk into such a deep meditational state that he had almost felt no hunger or thirst.

In those days, a third of the monster cores in Jian Chen's Space Belt had already been used up. Surrounding him was the dust left behind by the spent monster cores piled up in a fine layer, especially on his crossed legs.

Chapter 147: Identity Revealed

At that moment, a wave of intense energy pulsed out from Jian Chen's body. At this hour, his cultivation speed had gone up by another noticeable amount, yet the energy from within the Monster Cores was pouring out like stampeding horses. It was already too much for Jian Chen to handle, and so the energy floated in the air around him, looking like a dense white cloud of fog. In the cavern, this fog was extremely noticeable as it floated about him. In fact, Jian Chen's body had begun to light up with the fog surrounding him, making his body stand out in the dark cavern.

At the same time, all of his pores expanded to a larger size almost as if they were the mouths of thirsty children. The white mist like fog around Jian Chen then began to be swallowed into his body to be used as an energy source, consumed for Jian Chen's cultivation.

As the pores on Jian Chen's body began to swallow the energy around him, he began to also feel a slightly painful sensation within his body. It was almost as if he had multiple insects crawling around his body and taking bites. With such an annoying and irritating sensation like this, any person would feel it deep within their hearts.

As Jian Chen sat on the ground of the cavern with a peaceful look, he looked like a monk deep in meditation. Despite his peaceful demeanor, he could still feel the pain within his body. However, if one were to look at him, they would not be able to tell he was experiencing any pain. Meanwhile, within his body the energy that was absorbed through his pores was gathering within his dantian where it was then absorbed by the sword within it.

As the Saint Weapon absorbed the energy, it began to slowly change in a way that the shape of the sword grew more distinguished. All of the energy it had accumulated had added itself to its strength, and with each second the energy was absorbed, the Saint Weapon grew in length and size.

Right now, Jian Chen was already at the threshold of breaking through into a Saint Master.

This show continued on for 4 more hours until the monster core in Jian Chen's hand started to flicker. Immediately, Jian Chen took out a few Class 3 Monster Cores and began to cultivate again.

Time slowly but silently went by, and not too long after, half of the day had been spent. Within the darkness of the cavern, the hazy figure of Jian Chen could be seen cultivating while the white, fog-like energy grew even more condensed, to the point where it was lighting up like moonlight.

At that moment, an intense amount of energy flew out from Jian Chen and reverberated all over the cavern. The energy grew more and more intense as it eventually evolved into a squall that roared throughout the cavern. The dust kicked up everywhere and was scattered by the squall of energy.

All of the dust surrounding Jian Chen had been blown in every direction as the white fog swirled around frantically, before finally entering Jian Chen's body. In the blink of an eye, Jian Chen had completely absorbed it all at a pace that was far faster than his

original speed. With his current strength, he had finally made the breakthrough from a Great Saint to a Saint Master.

Just as Jian Chen had made his breakthrough into the next level, the two glows within his dantian had suddenly stopped stealing the energy from Jian Chen.

Jian Chen slowly opened his eyes from his sitting position when all of a sudden a weak, mysterious glow came out from his eyes. Although it was weak, in the darkness of the cavern, it was very noticeable.

Feeling that the Saint Force within his body was incomparably stronger than it was before, Jian Chen let loose an excited smile. Immediately, he brought out his Light Wind Sword to his hand which emitted a weak glow of light from its blade that dispersed the nearby darkness.

An amazing glow gleamed within Jian Chen's eyes as in the next moment, a large amount of silver light was released from the blade as a strong amount of Sword Qi appeared. Lunging forward, the Light Wind Sword was thrust through the air as a small amount of Sword Qi separated itself from the sword and shot toward the cavern walls with amazing speed.

Within the dark cavern, that silver glow of Sword Qi shot out like lightning towards the cavern wall without a sound. The moment it struck against the wall, the Sword Qi disappeared, but not before leaving behind a hole from its impact.

Jian Chen's body wavered slightly as he flew toward the wall like a demon possessed and struck out with his sword.

“Pch!”

Following the loud sound, the cliff that was stabbed by the Light Wind Sword seemed almost as weak as tofu. The entire blade of the Light Wind Sword had completely inserted itself into the wall and only the handle could be seen.

The moment the Light Wind Sword had stabbed into the wall, Jian Chen hadn't felt the slightest amount of obstructions from the momentum, making him feel as if the wall was a piece of beancurd instead of a stone wall. Although Jian Chen could easily stab into a stone wall in the past, it was not as easy as it was now.

Slowly pulling out his sword, Jian Chen's heart was filled with confidence. If he were to go against Tianxiong Lie, although he might not win against him, he would at least be able to put up a good fight.

Now that his strength was at the Saint Master level, Jian Chen was no longer worried if he were to come across a group of mercenaries. Even if there was a Great Saint Master within their ranks, he would at least be able to run away if need be.

Recollecting his Light Wind Sword, Jian Chen dusted himself off from all the dust and ignited the fire once more, basking in the glow of the fire instead of the darkness for once.

When Jian Chen exited from the cavern, 5 days had already passed. The intense sun was floating high in the sky, indicating that it was noon.

Jian Chen calmly looked around himself before setting off in a random direction.

“I hope that mercenary from the Black Leopard Mercenaries did not let me down.” Walking into the tall grass infested forest, Jian Chen muttered to himself. Now that he was a Saint Master, his fighting strength was much higher, and within Wake City, there would definitely be very few people that could contend with him.

Jian Chen began to idly stroll through the Magical Beast Mountain Range. In this part of the mountain range, Class 2 and 3 Magical Beasts often strolled through the area. In the past, Jian Chen had to be careful as he walked through this area, but now, as long as he didn't come across another monster on the same level as the Golden Striped Silver Snake, even if it was a Class 3 Magical Beast, he wouldn't have to worry.

Just then, Jian Chen's ears trembled as he heard the soft sound of chatter from the direction in front of him. Jian Chen's line of sight was obstructed due to the extremely dense vegetation and couldn't see who was talking beyond the trees.

“Harry, we've been searching this area for days and circled around the Magical Beast Mountain Range many times already. And yet we've still haven't come across anyone that looks like Jian Chen. Do you think Jian Chen is still here? What if he already escaped without a trace?”

“Fiji, you can stop your complaining. The Magical Beast Mountain Range is huge with wild grass everywhere. Searching for a single person in this place is difficult, surely you understand that. Besides, the reports say that Jian Chen is heavily injured. Even if he wanted to run, he wouldn’t be able to go far. I’m not even sure if he’s currently hiding somewhere trying to heal

“That’s right, I’m sure that Jian Chen’s hiding somewhere with heavy wounds not daring to come out.”

“But it’s still so troublesome. Many people have already entered the mountain range, and if Jian Chen wasn’t in a secret hiding spot, he would have long since been discovered by a group of people or even eaten by a magical beast.”

“There’s some truth to that, but we better slowly look for now. Even if we don’t find him, we’ll be able to kill a few magical beasts and take their monster cores to cultivate with.”

As soon as that last line was spoken, the group pushed past some tall grass and walked out onto the road where they could see Jian Chen clearly in front of them.

They could see Jian Chen wearing animal leather and his face hidden by the accumulated filth of his time on the mountain range.

The moment they saw Jian Chen, the mercenaries looked blankly at him. At the same time, Jian Chen took in the group in front of

him; there was a total of 7 or 8 people in front of him with their ages looking to be around 30 years old. Their faces had traces of sweat and filth and their clothes were in a tattered condition, showing that they had been staying in the Magical Beast Mountain Range for a few days at the very least.

One of the mercenaries walked forward to speak to Jian Chen, “Fellow friend, judging from your appearance, I presume you’ve been at the Magical Beast Mountain Range for quite some time now.”

Jian Chen’s face revealed a smile as he replied, “That’s right, I’ve been here on this mountain range for quite a few days.”

“Then I’m not sure if this friend has heard about the most recent news from Wake City.” The man asked Jian Chen as he looked at him.

Hearing this, Jian Chen had a thoughtful look to him, “This one is not sure if you are talking about the one named Jian Chen.”

“Correct, it is indeed about him. It would appear that this friend has indeed come into this Magical Beast Mountain Range looking for Jian Chen. Judging by your appearances, I presume you’ve been in the mountain range for longer than we have. But perhaps, do you know any news about Jian Chen?” The mercenary said.

“News about Jian Chen...” Jian Chen’s smile grew strange as he nodded. “You’ve asked the right person. Indeed, I know the whereabouts of Jian Chen.”

“What! You know where Jian Chen is?!”

Hearing this, the entire group of mercenaries were startled. Due to the words from this mercenary, everyone adopted a joyous expression on their faces. This was what they had wanted to hear, but they hadn't expected to hear it from this animal hide-wearing mercenary. They didn't think that this question they had thrown out casually would be answered in such a way.

“Fellow friend, where might Jian Chen be this one asks.” A mercenary asked impatiently. To him, Jian Chen was like a mountain of gold, and so he didn't bother to think if he had the strength to fight him.

Jian Chen was still smiling as he slowly said, “Not even far away, but right in front of your eyes!” Jian Chen looked at them with a curious stare.

“Seeing so many mercenaries trying to find me, it would seem that the ten thousand purple coin bounty from the Tianxiong clan has enticed many people.” Jian Chen thought to himself.

“Not far away, but right in front of our eyes!” Hearing Jian Chen, the mercenaries all repeated what he said under their breaths in thought. Very quickly the mercenaries came to a realization as they snapped their heads at him and stared in disbelief, “What?! You're Jian Chen?!”

Chapter 148: Spare Us!

As the mercenaries cried out, their eyes landed on Jian Chen with shock written all over their faces.

Not a single one of them had thought that after looking everywhere in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, they would coincidentally come across him. What was more amusing was just how exactly they came across Jian Chen.

Another mercenary laughed bitterly as he stared at Jian Chen, “I say fellow brother, you shouldn’t joke around in such a manner just in case some idiot believes what you say and drags you off to the Tianxiong clan for the bounty.”

Hearing that mercenary, the other mercenaries saw the light and began to force a smile as well. The words Jian Chen had said had truly shocked them.

“Fellow friend, right now Jian Chen’s name is infamous around this area, it would be best for you if you refrain from joking around like that again or else you risk having trouble come looking for you.” A mercenary said. Not a single one of them believed that this animal hide wearing person was the Jian Chen they were looking for.

Jian Chen laughed and said, “Then what would you need to believe that I’m Jian Chen?”

“According to what we know, Jian Chen’s Saint Weapon is a thin

longsword and is quite young. Around the age of 20 to be exact. His speed is quite fast as is his sword strokes to the point where even a few Saint Master experts aren't able to dodge them. It was said that because these Saint Masters weren't able to dodge his sword that they died by Jian Chen's hands." A mercenary said.

A silver sword appeared in Jian Chen's hands—it was his Light Wind Sword. Laughing, Jian Chen said, "Take a look, the sword Jian Chen uses, is it this one?"

Hearing this, the mercenaries looked at the Light Wind Sword in Jian Chen's hands with a curious look.

"Ai! Look! This sword here has some resemblance."

"That's right, it's quite similar, almost exactly the same."

Right away, two mercenaries couldn't help but cry out. Hearing those two, the rest of the mercenaries began to grow serious as they looked at Jian Chen, their attitudes toward him slowly changing.

"You really are Jian Chen." A mercenary stared at the dust filled face of Jian Chen. As the way things were now, these mercenaries had all come to the conclusion that this person in front of them was the person they had been painstakingly looking for.

Jian Chen laughed as he said, "That's right, I am Jian Chen. The Jian Chen that has been chased by the Tianxiong clan. Right now, I

stand here waiting to see if you can capture and take me back to Wake City for the bounty.”

Hearing that, the mercenaries began to laugh out loud as they looked at each other before one of the mercenaries cried out, “My brothers, surround him!”

With that command, a mercenary rushed toward Jian Chen while the rest of the mercenaries hesitated for a moment before charging along with him. Surrounding Jian Chen in a circle.

Just as Jian Chen absorbed the Light Wind Sword, both of his hands rested against his chest as he looked at the mercenaries surrounding him. With disdain, he said, “It would appear that many people were tempted by the ten thousand purple coin bounty, but I didn’t think that even Great Saints would come to capture me as well. Could it be that you didn’t hear about how many Saint Masters died by my hand, or do you think your strength surpasses those of the Saint Masters?”

The mercenaries all looked at Jian Chen with some hesitation as they listened to him, but one of the mercenaries cried out, “Jian Chen, you can stop pretending to be brave. Right now, everyone knows that you are heavily injured, so your strength is nowhere near the same level as it was. It would be best for you if you were to come with us obediently, otherwise, don’t blame us for being impolite. By that point, don’t say that we bullied you.”

Jian Chen shook his head helplessly as he muttered, “It seems that the money has really addled your brains to the point where you don’t even care for your own lives. Forget it, I don’t feel like

speaking with you anymore.” Jian Chen then stopped talking before his body shook slightly before appearing instantly right in front of a closeby mercenary. Making a fist with his right hand, he slammed it into the nose of that mercenary without any fancy movements.

“Ah!” The mercenary cried out in agony as he held his nose in pain. Blood began to slowly drip down from it, and before long the entire bottom part of his face was covered with blood. Jian Chen’s fist had broken his nose.

After breaking that mercenary’s nose, Jian Chen didn’t stop there. Immediately kicking at his stomach, the man was sent flying back 5 meters.

Immediately after, Jian Chen’s body disappeared and reappeared right in front of another mercenary with a great amount of Saint Force circling his leg. With that leg, he lashed out at the chest of the mercenary.

“Bang!” came the collision. The mercenary didn’t have any time to react before being sent flying into the air with blood flying out from his mouth.

“Jian Chen, what a lowly person you are for using a sneak attack! Everyone forward, take him!”

After Jian Chen had attacked those 2 mercenaries, the rest of the mercenaries were brought back to awareness and flew at Jian Chen with their Saint Weapons ready to slash.

Jian Chen nimbly dodged the attacks and dashed forward and with his fists at the ready, he attacked a few of the mercenaries at a rapid pace, causing an endless stream of sounds to be heard.

Now that Jian Chen was a Saint Master, he could easily take care of those at the Great Saint level without using his Light Wind Sword.

Every sword user thought their swords to be extremely important, and many viewed the sword to be akin to their second life. Jian Chen was no exception. Looking at these mercenaries in front of him, if he were to use his sword to kill these mercenaries, it would be like killing a chicken with a cow cleaver.

Despite Jian Chen utilizing the art of Chinese boxing, these mercenaries were still powerless to respond. Within a few breaths, they had fallen to the ground with bloody noses and swollen faces.

Jian Chen clapped his hands together as he looked at the pained mercenaries on the ground and laughed, “Do you still believe you can take me in to get that reward?”

“Lord Jian Chen, please spare us, spare us please. We...we were possessed and seduced to the point of foolishness by the thought of the reward. You must be generous, please spare us this time.” A mercenary crawled from the ground and began to bow his head to Jian Chen while pleading in a loud voice.

Chapter 149 Meeting The Zhou Mercenaries Once More

Highlight above for chapter title

Seeing the mercenary continuously bow his head, Jian Chen furrowed his eyebrows. These types of people were the ones he couldn't stand the most.

“Fiji, what are you doing, hurry up and get up! You're throwing away our face, even if we die, that will be it, what use is there to fear?” Seeing that mercenary continue to bow his head down at Jian Chen, one of the other mercenaries couldn't help but curse at him.

“Fiji, you cowardly bastard, in my entire life I have never seen such a brother like you.”

The mercenary called Fiji who was kneeling had caused the rest of his mercenaries friends to look on at him with an extreme amount of disdain.

Jian Chen looked at the mercenaries who were shouting at Fiji with some admiration. For those who clung to their lives so cowardly like Fiji, Jian Chen held them in contempt the most.

“Do you have something to say still?” Jian Chen ignored the one who was bowing his head and looked at the other mercenaries.

Hearing that, the mercenaries looked at each other with a sorrowful look of regret. They clearly knew that they were under Jian Chen's mercy, but it was most likely that they would stay within the Magical Beast Mountain Range forever without being able to see tomorrow's sun.

"Whether you kill us or cut our flesh, do what you wish, there is nothing more to say." A stubborn mercenary said firmly. Jian Chen had brought them to heel by using his fists and legs alone, this type of strength had caused them all to consider running away, but they clearly knew within their hearts that running away would have practically no chance of success.

"I'll give you all one chance to live. Hand over all of your Class 2 Monster cores, and you may go. Otherwise, you will all die here. Pick now, I will wait for your decision." Jian Chen said gently.

Faced with that decision, none of the mercenaries hesitated at all. Immediately nodding their heads, they all obediently took out every single Class 2 Monster Core from within their Space Belt and piled them all together neatly. Although they were all very reluctant to part with them, they weren't stupid and knew that this wasn't the time to be stingy.

Jian Chen swept his gaze over the pile where there weren't even over 10 Class 2 Monster Cores. "Now hand over the monster cores."

Obediently, one of the mercenaries scooped up the monster cores from the ground and placed them all within Jian Chen's hand. Once Jian Chen took the monster cores in his hands, he waved

them away, “Go on then, I’m feeling generous today. I may be letting you go, but if we meet each other again in the same situation, don’t expect it to be the same.”

The mercenaries didn’t bother to stay around and ran with their tails between their legs. Seeing the mercenaries disappear into the forest, Jian Chen smiled as he stored away the Class 2 Monster Cores within his Space Belt. Kneading his fists, he muttered to himself, “I don’t know how long it has been since I’ve used my fists to attack people. Although it feels a little weird, it’s not all that bad.”

“For these mercenaries, killing Class 2 Magical Beasts for their monster cores is not an easy task. I’ve taught them a lesson, but since this is their only source of Class 2 Monster Cores, this will definitely not be the last time I will see them. Sooner or later, many more people will come by this way; haha, I don’t know how many people there will be, but with a prize of ten thousand purple coins, I hope that even stronger people come. Otherwise, my plan will progress too slowly.”

“With this type of good opportunity, I will definitely profit as much as I can. Since all those who are trying to find me are enemies, I won’t need stay my hand. The weak are food for the strong, this is the absolute rule of this world.”

Jian Chen’s face slowly revealed a look of expectation; because of his cultivation, his monster core consumption rate was dozens of times or maybe a hundred times more than others. He had no other choice but try to earn more monster cores because of the glows in his dantian. He had been forced to give up using the

World Essence to cultivate and now only relied on the monster cores instead.

Not too long after the mercenaries had left, they immediately spread the news of Jian Chen's whereabouts. Soon enough, Jian Chen's position in the Magical Beast Mountain Range was well known by everyone. Quickly, every single mercenary and other parties of power began to rush over to try and overtake him.

At this moment, Jian Chen was sitting in the area with no intentions of leaving. Sitting on a tree 30 meters away, he was completely concealed by the tree leaves with barely any parts of his body being visible between the gaps in the leaves. In this situation, it was very difficult to see him.

Not too long after, a group of 40 mercenaries slowly walked into the area near where Jian Chen was sitting. All of them were wearing steel helmets with full body armor while being armed to the teeth. Not a single one of them looked to be in disarray, and instead looked to be very well trained.

The moment Jian Chen saw these mercenaries through the gaps in the leaves, the name of a single mercenary group flashed through his brain. Immediately, a flash of killing intent could be seen in his eyes as his face grew serious.

"Crash!" A sound came from within the leaves as Jian Chen leaped down from the tree top.

"What person...."

“Be careful, someone came down from the trees...”

Just as Jian Chen flew down from the treetops, the armored mercenaries below began to shout as each one of them pulled out a Saint Weapon at the ready to fight.

Jian Chen’s feet kicked off the tree, causing him to fly 20 meters forward before finally landing nimbly on the ground right in front of the mercenaries.

“Who are you?!”

The front most armored mercenary stepped toward Jian Chen yelling for him to identify himself.

Jian Chen’s solemn face looked through the group with a careful eye. It was a shame that he saw no familiar figures within the group, “You are the Zhou Mercenaries.” Jian Chen said, it was no question.

“That’s right, we are the Zhou Mercenaries. Who are you, and why do you block our path?” The mercenary who was at the front slowly demanded.

The Zhou Mercenaries weren’t weak, and could be considered to be within the top 5 mercenary groups within Wake City. Adding onto their affiliation with the Zhou Clan in Wake City, it had given them plenty of arrogance.

Once he had confirmed their identities, a large amount of killing intent emerged from Jian Chen in waves of energy. Without anymore words, Jian Chen took out his Light Wind Sword and began to charge at the Zhou Mercenaries.

The last time Jian Chen had met the Zhou Mercenaries, they had came across a Class 5 cub in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, Although the original members of that Zhou Mercenary group weren't here, they had cost the Flame Mercenaries their lives and caused them to lose the Class 5 cub. Plus, while running away from the Class 5 Golden Fur Tiger King, if it weren't for that member of the Zhou Mercenaries who threw the cub at Captain Kendall, the Golden Fur Tiger King wouldn't have chased after the Flame Mercenaries. So the entire destruction of the Flame Mercenaries and the death of everyone in it could all be blamed on the Zhou Mercenaries.

Chapter 150: Extermination

Jian Chen quickly closed the 10 meters between him and the Zhou Mercenaries. With his Light Wind Sword, he thrust it toward the front most mercenary's throat in hopes to kill him. In a flash, the sword had found itself right in front of his throat.

Seeing the sword come at him with incomparably fast speeds, the leader's face underwent a drastic change as he realized that he wasn't able to react in time to block with his own Saint Weapon. Hastily, he twisted the entire top half of his body to dodge this fatal sword strike and without hesitation, he retreated backward in order to gain some distance from Jian Chen.

Even after Jian Chen's attack had failed to land, his face did not waver at all. Continuing onward, he dashed forward toward the other Zhou Mercenaries ahead of him and lashed out with his Light Wind Sword and stabbed 4 Great Saints through their throats in a flash. Their armor was of no use as Jian Chen had speared through the steel metal as if it were tofu.

To make a long story short, in the instant that the four mercenaries were killed, the other Zhou Mercenaries hadn't even had time to react. From the moment Jian Chen had moved his hand to the moment the 4 mercenaries had been killed, the other mercenaries didn't even have time to breath.

"Stay your hand!" The first mercenary that had dodged Jian Chen's blade cried out. After seeing how fast Jian Chen had struck out, he had realized how strong he was. He would not be an easy opponent, so at this current moment, there was no way the Zhou

Mercenaries would want to fight against this person without reason.

However, Jian Chen had turned a deaf ear toward him, the Zhou Mercenaries were already on the top of his to kill list. His Light Wind Sword flashed continuously as it wreaked havoc on his surroundings, his blade almost resembling the death god's scythe that reaped the lives of the Zhou Mercenaries without mercy.

The Great Saints of the Zhou Mercenaries simply had no chance to defend themselves. They weren't able to catch sight of the blade and thus were stabbed straight through the throat. Even the Saint Masters among the Zhou Mercenaries could only defend themselves against a few strikes before Jian Chen claimed their lives with his Light Wind Sword as well. Jian Chen's strength against Saint Masters was far stronger than it was before his breakthrough now. These Saint Master experts would no longer have the ability to harm Jian Chen, and just touching his clothes would already be a difficult task.

Jian Chen's figure constantly flickered as he traveled in between mercenaries almost as if he were creating doppelgangers of himself. As he paid attention to his surroundings, each strike toward his body was carefully predicted and dodged. While he was able to injure the enemies around him, his enemies weren't able to do the same to him.

Jian Chen's attacks were incomparably sharp beyond anyone's imagination. In the midst of 40 mercenaries, Jian Chen had already stabbed and killed 20 mercenaries within the span of a few seconds, some of which were Saint Masters.

Seeing how Jian Chen didn't even expend much energy after killing 20 mercenaries so quickly, the leader of the Zhou Mercenaries had felt an icy cold fear within his heart. Hidden behind his stone cold helmet was his pale face. In his mind he had felt a great deal of puzzlement; he didn't know just when the Zhou Mercenaries had offended such a strong person, but without even saying a single word, this person had attacked the Zhou Mercenaries ruthlessly.

The leader was unable to keep calm and think about what to do, but his brain had quickly come to a conclusion. Immediately turning around, he made a decision to run away.

He knew in his heart that he was completely powerless against the great display of strength shown by Jian Chen. Even if he were to stay behind, he wouldn't make much of a difference and would only die there. So if death were to be the case here, he would rather take the chance and run away.

Before he could even run 20 meters away, the figure of a person quickly appeared right behind him with an extreme amount of speed. In the blink of an eye the person had already caught up with him as the silver glint of a sword left behind a brilliant glow of light as it arced toward the escaping figure.

The leader of the Zhou Mercenaries was a Peak Saint Master, so the moment he felt an extraordinary amount of Sword Qi, he immediately ducked onto the ground and rolled away without looking backward. The moment both of his hands hit the ground, he pushed himself back up onto his feet as a long spear

simultaneously appeared in his hand. With a large amount of Saint Force encompassing the spear, he stabbed toward Jian Chen.

Jian Chen swayed slightly instead of dodging away and kept charging towards the leader once more. His arm shook as the Light Wind Sword covered the entire area with its bright glow, causing everyone who looked at it to be dazzled at this seemingly unreal experience.

Against a sword whose light seemed to encompass the entire sky, the Peak Saint Master expert didn't know what he should do to protect himself. In that moment of hesitation, the silver blade of Jian Chen reappeared from within the glow and stabbed straight through his throat.

“Bang!” Jian Chen kicked at the leader's chest, causing him to fly far backward. Holding onto his bloody Light Wind Sword, Jian Chen ran toward the remaining Zhou Mercenaries in an effort to kill them. Jian Chen had no intention of letting a single member leave this place alive.

“Captain Chen Yunlong has died...”

“Captain Chen Yunlong was killed...”

“Captain Chen Yunlong has already been killed, everybody run...”

The death of their captain had caused every mercenary to feel an

extreme amount of fear within their hearts as everyone began to lose their fighting spirit. Against Jian Chen who seemed like a god of death, their courage was almost nonexistent. Throwing away their helmets, they began trying to escape.

After Jian Chen had killed some of the members, the remaining few had all started to run away with all their strength in every possible direction. Although Jian Chen wasn't slow, killing every single mercenary in this case wouldn't be an easy task.

“Hmph, you Zhou Mercenaries won't leave this place alive.” Jian Chen's eyes had a glow of killing intent behind them as he instantly began to pour out Sword Qi in tremendous waves from his sword. Immediately, the Light Wind Sword separated from Jian Chen's hand as it flew out with tremendous speed. Transforming into a silver ray of light, it began to fly toward the closest mercenary in an attempt to kill him.

At this moment, Jian Chen didn't care about keeping his Soul Sword a secret, he just wanted the entire Zhou Mercenaries to be destroyed.

The Light Wind Sword shot through the air like a silver streak of light throughout the area as it stabbed through the throats of all the mercenaries who were trying to escape. In a matter of seconds the remaining 10 mercenaries had all fallen to the ground dead.

Chapter 151: This One Is Honored

The Light Wind Sword nimbly flew through the air as if it had a mind of its own before returning to Jian Chen's hand once more.

Jian Chen held out his arm to catch the Light Wind Sword as it flashed toward him in a silver ray of light. It was already dripping with blood, but the tip of its blade could still be seen gleaming.

Just as the Light Wind Sword returned to his hand, the blood on the blade of the sword, almost as if it was alive, began to concentrate at the sword's tip. Drop by drop it fell onto the dusty ground below as the previously bloody Light Wind Sword became clear once more. The seemingly mirror like metal reflected light off of the blade and radiated a hazy white glow of silver light. The forest was basked within its glow and would have dazzled the eyes of anyone that saw it.

Sweeping his eyes over the mercenaries, he used his Light Wind Sword to poke at the bodies before taking their Space Belts away. Carrying the Space Belts, he walked on over to a clean area to sit down.

As he walked over, he continued to pick up the Space Belts of the dead Zhou Mercenaries, and in a short moment, he had accumulated a small pile of Space Belts.

After he had collected every single Space Belt and piled them together, Jian Chen absorbed the Light Wind Sword back into his body. One by one, Jian Chen began to inspect the items within the

Space Belts for the money and monster cores and letting it stack up into a single pile.

In a few moments, the 40 Space Belts had been inspected and by Jian Chen's side, there was a small pile of monster cores and money. There were a total of 300 monster cores; most of them were Class 2 Monster Cores with a Class 3 Monster Core for every 10 Class 2 Monster Cores. But there wasn't a single Class 4 Monster Core to be seen.

Half of the stack of coins in the pile were copper and silver coins with the golden coins taking up a small amount of it to make a total of 500 coins between the three. There were around 50 purple coins, and in total, the cumulative amount of wealth from this pile would be equal to around 70 purple coins.

Disliking the poor sum of money, Jian Chen stored both the monster cores and money into his own Space Belt. Leaving behind the dead bodies of the Zhou Mercenaries along with their Space Belts, Jian Chen left the area. Everything that remained in their Space Belts was just useless junk, as every single valuable had been taken by Jian Chen.

Jian Chen didn't go too far, and instead hid himself on top of a large tree. He knew that there were mercenaries trying to find him so that they could take him back to the Tianxiong Clan for the reward. However, because the Magical Beast Mountain Range was so large and the terrain within so complicated, even if they were to have men every 100 meters, it would still be hard to find him. The amount of time it would take to find another group of mercenaries would be too pitiful if he were to wait elsewhere.

On the mountain range, every single mercenary was still trying to get to this area. The Zhou Mercenaries were the first group that had reached this place.

Not too long after, from his hiding spot, Jian Chen spotted yet another group of mercenaries coming in his direction. This group only had 10 people, a vastly different amount than the previous Zhou Mercenaries' numbers. However, Jian Chen could sense that this group was filled with Saint Masters. Their group strength wasn't weaker than the Zhou Mercenaries at all.

Just as the group of mercenaries walked under the tree Jian Chen was hiding in, he suddenly jumped down from his perch. Landing gently on the ground, he suddenly sped toward the group with the Light Wind Sword in his hand as he stabbed forward with a tremendous amount of Sword Qi flowing from his blade.

The 10 mercenaries had immediately reacted when Jian Chen had started his movement, but Jian Chen's speed was much faster than their reaction speed and he had already closed the gap between them. With his Light Wind Sword, he thrust it out in a great streak of light as it stabbed into the right shoulder of one of the mercenaries.

At the same time, every single one of the mercenaries had already pulled out their Saint Weapons as they snarled in anger. The mercenaries in the back began to run forward in hopes of trapping Jian Chen within a circle.

Jian Chen pulled out his sword from the man's right shoulder and immediately put himself into a defensive position as the Saint Masters all slashed down at him. Like a silver viper, the Light Wind Sword flashed forward toward another mercenary.

The targeted mercenary hastily brought up his sword to block the strike, but with the Light Wind Sword being so fast, his defenses were quickly overwhelmed, and he was ultimately stabbed through the right shoulder.

“You're seeking death!”

Seeing one of their own take damage, every other mercenary became furious as even more Saint Force entered their Saint Weapons. Without mercy they continued their pursuit toward Jian Chen with their Saint Weapon.

Jian Chen flew back 10 meters in a nimble manner, causing the sword strikes to hit nothing but air. The other remaining Saint Weapons crashed into the floor, causing a large crater to form.

Jian Chen's right hand held his sword as the tip of it pointed downward toward the ground while his eyes stared at the mercenaries.

“To dare attack us so underhandedly, you must be tired of living you bastard.”

A big sturdy person cursed as he lifted his gigantic two handed

sword up to swing down at Jian Chen.

“Bantu!” Before that man could take a step forward, another middle aged man came up to block him.

The one named Bantu stared angrily at the one blocking him, “Mu Jian! Don’t you block me, did you not see that bastard injure Hadow and Erik?”

The one named Mu Jian shook his head as he ignored Bantu to look at Jian Chen, “Fellow friend, I don’t know what reason you might have suddenly attack us.”

“You are here to find and capture the one called Jian Chen.” Jian Chen said.

Hearing this, the one named Mu Jian looked at the Light Wind Sword in Jian Chen’s hands. As if he realized something, his face underwent a huge change as he cried out, “Could you be Jian Chen then?”

“That’s right, I am Jian Chen!” Jian Chen smiled, but it was an otherworldly type of smile.

Hearing that, the 10 mercenaries looked at each other with an excited look on their faces. They didn’t think that they would be able to find Jian Chen, but to find him here, if they were able to capture him, then the ten thousand purple coins reward would be theirs. However, instead of a happy look on Mu Jian’s face, there

was only an expression of concentration.

“So you’re Jian Chen, this is too...”

“Stop talking!”

Just as one mercenary was about to burst out into a smile and say something, Mu Jian had immediately cut him off. Glaring at him, Mu Jian turned back to Jian Chen and cupped his hands together, “I did not think honored one here would be the honored Jian Chen known for his military prowess, this one here is named Mu Jian. To be able to see the elegant and honored Jian Chen, this is truly a blessing enough for three lifetimes.”

Chapter 152: Indecision

Jian Chen laughed and spoke, “You praise me too much, honored Mu Jian truly praises me too much. I suppose your group of men entered the Magical Beast Mountain Range to find me as well.”

“That’s correct, we came to capture you.” The one Mu Jian was holding back had spoken out loud.

Hearing the man speak, Mu Jian’s face changed before staring angrily at the man behind him. On the man’s face was a look of confusion and did not understand what was happening.

Mu Jian cupped his hands together as he faced Jian Chen once more and laughed. “Honored Jian Chen, this one and my friends did indeed enter the Magical Beast Mountain Range, but it was to watch the excitement. We never had the idea of trying to capture the honored Jian Chen, I hope that you won’t misunderstand us.”

“Misunderstand!” Jian Chen couldn’t help but laugh, “If I didn’t hear incorrectly, then I just heard your friend over there say your group wanted to capture me. For this reason, how could I not misunderstand you?”

Hearing this, Mu Jian had an embarrassed look on his face. When they entered the Magical Beast Mountain Range, they really did want to capture Jian Chen. Although they had heard about Jian Chen’s strength and how so many Saint Masters had died by Jian Chen’s hands, they had thought it was a rumor. Every man had always mistrusted rumors, and Mu Jian and his group was no

different.

But the moment Mu Jian had personally seen Jian Chen's strength, he could see that none of his companions could be an opponent for Jian Chen. Even if they had the superiority in numbers, that didn't mean a guaranteed capture of Jian Chen without them taking on heavy losses as well. He was also truly aware that if Jian Chen had been serious in taking the lives of his companions, they would have long since been lying down on the ground. Because of that, Mu Jian had already given up on thinking about trying to capture Jian Chen. At this very moment, he didn't want to enter a conflict with Jian Chen, otherwise, they would take on heavy losses.

Seeing the silent Mu Jian, Jian Chen spoke up once more, "I don't wish to kill the innocent randomly. If you hand over all of the monster cores within your Space Belts, then you can purchase your life back. If you don't however, then don't blame me for being merciless." Suddenly, a glint of murderous intent made it to Jian Chen's eyes.

Hearing this, every single one of the mercenaries revealed an angry yet disdainful expression. Among the 10, no one except for Mu Jian had that clear expression of understanding.

"Jian Chen, you're a despicable person that only knows how to use dirty tricks, what qualifications do you have to say something like that? Come and eat uncle's sword!"

Jian Chen's words had angered many of the people there, and immediately, the sturdy man behind Mu Jian had brought out his

giant sword in anger as he charged at Jian Chen.

“Hold up!” Mu Jian tried to block the man without caring for the anger in his eyes. Turning around to look at Jian Chen, he spoke, “Jian Chen, we became enemies by accident, could it be you’re still going to force us in this way?”

Jian Chen began to laugh coldly, “I already told you. Leave behind your monster cores, and you may go. Otherwise, I won’t stay my hand.” He paused for a moment before he said, “However, if you make a move against me and suffer casualties, don’t blame me.”

Jian Chen’s words had left no room for argument, causing Mu Jian to feel extremely gloomy as he said, “It’s just as they said, everything must be given up without a word. Honored Jian Chen, you’re being too excessive.” One’s Space Belt was filled with the monster cores that they had risked their own lives to attain from killing magical beasts and accumulated after a long period of time. Mu Jian knew that if he were to fight with Jian Chen, then there would definitely be a loss, but at the same time, giving all of his hard earned monster cores to Jian Chen was an impossible thing.

“Mu Jian, what are you doing spouting bullsh*t with him? Hurry up and capture him, he wants to take all of our monster cores by himself, what a huge joke that is!” A golden haired man spoke with a huge amount of disdain.

“Jian Chen, although you’ve injured 2 of our brothers, that was only because you had attacked us from behind. There’s 10 of us, so that doesn’t mean someone like you could be an opponent of ours.

At the very most, the end result would be both sides taking on heavy injuries, but that won't be much damage to our side. On the other hand, if you take on heavy injuries, that would make things very disadvantageous for you, after all, there's many people crawling about in the Magical Beast Mountain Range who are here to capture you. To us, this isn't anything to worry about, but to you, this is a struggle between life and death, so asking for us to hand over our monster cores to you is an impossible task." The one who spoke was a sturdy person, clearly, he knew that Jian Chen's strength wasn't all that weak either.

Jian Chen's eye flashed with a cold glare as he raised his Light Wind Sword. "So it's like that, all that's left to do is fight then." He said as he charged toward the 10 people.

Mu Jian didn't say anything more and held his sword. Charging with the other mercenaries, everyone prepared to fight Jian Chen.

All 10 of these people had the strength of a Saint Master, and in the past, if Jian Chen were to fight against these 10 Saint Masters, he would be at a huge disadvantage. But right now, his strength was well over the level of the surrounding Saint Masters and he could handle them with ease.

Using the Profound Steps to defend himself against the attacks from the Saint Masters and retaliating, both the mercenaries and Jian Chen were evenly matched. Despite the disadvantage Jian Chen had for being alone, not too long later, the mercenaries were slowly losing their advantage. A good amount of times the mercenaries had almost been pierced straight through their necks by Jian Chen, but they would also dodge to the side at the most

crucial moment. However, they had already been stabbed multiple times by Jian Chen's sword.

Jian Chen was like a demon possessed as he flashed throughout the crowd. Each time he disappeared and reappeared, he would attack from almost every direction with the Light Wind Sword that emitted a strong amount of Sword Qi.

The Light Wind Sword danced as it flew through the air. The sounds of it traveling through the air could be heard clearly as it concentrated its attack in one straight line.

“Pch!”

The Light Wind Sword's tip sharpened by the Sword Qi stabbed into the joint of a mercenary's right arm. At the same time, the Light Wind Sword bore straight through his body, causing the arm to lose all functionality.

That man began to shriek out in agony as the sword in his hand disappeared into thin air. His right arm had been completely skewered, causing him to lose any fighting strength he had since he could no longer hold a weapon.

“Bang!” Jian Chen's kicked the man firmly in the abdomen, causing him to fly backward. Swaying his body to the side, he dodged another strike that came at him. At the same time, he lashed out with his sword at the man, causing him to panic. Immediately taking advantage of the hasty parry, Jian Chen immediately stabbed him through the right shoulder.

Chapter 153: Meeting Another Great Saint Master

The injury to the right shoulder had impacted the man's ability to swing his sword. The man who was struck through the shoulder had felt an injury so grave that it was beyond anything he had ever felt. Because of the Sword Qi enhanced sword tip, when the Light Wind Sword stabbed through his right shoulder, his entire right arm had lost functionality as well as fighting ability.

The injured members could only helplessly retreat while Jian Chen advanced forward to fight the other mercenaries.

The sounds of Saint Weapon clashing against Saint Weapon could be heard constantly as the Saint Force from everyone mixed in with everyone else's. The Saint Force had even reached a point where the nearby grass was flattened while the dirt from the ground flew up in one giant dust cloud, covering everyone's figure.

“Ah...”

“Ah...”

Every so often the miserable sounds of pain could be heard as yet another person was kicked into the air. Each figure was soaked with blood and had injuries all over their bodies. Not too long later, the previously 10 mercenaries had been reduced down to a small handful.

Jian Chen's figure had been constantly slashing at his opponents in a fierce manner, but there was not even a single wound to be seen anywhere on his body. Blocking the downward slash of a sword, Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword streaked forward and stabbed into the right shoulder of another mercenary.

"I don't wish to slaughter the innocent, so I'll give you one last chance to go. If you remain stubborn like this, then don't blame me anymore." Jian Chen called out without any emotion, but it could be seen that there was a killing intent within his eyes. He had been very lenient until now, but because they were so stubborn, he had no choice but to kill them.

This was a very common thing on the Tian Yuan Continent, so Jian Chen didn't think he was at fault. After all, this world obeyed the primal laws of the jungle, and so the strong held all of the power. The weak would never have any say in this world.

If any mercenary were to come into the Magical Beast Mountain Range, they were there just to capture Jian Chen and bring him back to the Tianxiong clan for the bounty, and these 10 mercenaries in front of him were no different. If it weren't for the fact that Jian Chen was stronger than them, these mercenaries wouldn't have been so unwilling to fight him at first.

Hearing this, the one called Mu Jian revealed the struggle he was having within his mind as he looked at his heavily injured and weakened mercenaries. Biting his lip, he finally yelled out, "Stop!"

Mu Jian didn't have a weak amount of prestige among this group of mercenaries. The moment he had spoken, every single

mercenary had immediately jumped backward and looked with fear at Jian Chen and his slender Light Wind Sword. His sword was so fast that it had caused even them to be extremely afraid. During their battle with Jian Chen, there were many times that the Light Wind Sword had almost struck them, only to be saved by their nearby comrades at the very last moment.

Mu Jian continued to look at Jian Chen with a complicated look, but seeing the amount of blood that was leaking down from his Light Wind Sword, he suddenly became dejected and said helplessly, “Everyone take out your monster cores. Honored Jian Chen has already been merciful toward us, if we don’t follow his demands this time, then simple injuries won’t be the end of our problems.”

This time, none of the mercenaries had any thoughts of disagreeing. With a dejected look on their faces, they silently began to pull out all of their remaining monster cores from their Space Belts and piled them up on the ground.

After that short exchange, they all knew that even with 10 people, they were not enough to be classified as an opponent for this youth. With his extremely fast sword strokes and ability to defend so quickly, they simply had no way of attacking or resisting.

These 10 Saint Masters had many monster cores on them. Although they didn’t have many Class 3 Monster Cores, they still had plenty of Class 2 Monster Cores.

“Jian Chen, this is all of the monster cores we have, that means

we can go now, correct?” Mu Jian spoke with an ugly expression.

Jian Chen looked at the pile of monster cores on the ground with an involuntary smile on his face. “If you had just given the monster cores earlier, then all of this could have been avoided. That’s fine, although I, Jian Chen, cannot call myself a gentleman, I am a man who keeps his promises. You can go.”

Mu Jian spared one last look at the small pile of monster cores on the ground, a look of reluctance. With a helpless sigh, Mu Jian and his friends could only leave this place behind. Although the pile of monster cores wasn’t a lot relatively speaking, it was all the Saint Masters had.

“Remember, I don’t wish to see you come and face me again, otherwise, I will definitely not be as merciful. You would best do to leave the Magical Beast Mountain Range immediately.”

As the 10 mercenaries walked away, Jian Chen had called out to them before they could get too far.

Hearing this, Mu Jian had stopped for only a second, but he didn’t say anything. Quickly after, he disappeared into the forest.

Jian Chen recollected his Light Wind Sword and calmly walked toward the pile of monster cores. Bending down to store all of it into his personal Space Belt, he had counted that there were around 200 monster cores. A good amount of the cores were Class 2, but there were around 20 Class 3 Monster Cores.

Just as Jian Chen had finished cleaning up all of the monster cores, he slowly straightened his back and gave a cold smile. “Fellow friend, you’ve been here for some time and seen quite enough. Isn’t it time for you to come out?”

“Hahahaha....”

Just as Jian Chen finished talking, a loud voice came out from the forest. Afterward, a gray shadow flew out from within and landed 20 meters away from where Jian Chen stood.

The person who came was rather old, his age was around 50 to 60 years old. His face was rather red as he looked at Jian Chen with a lively expression. Judging by how disorderly his silver hair was, the man was rather unconventional with his looks. He wore a gray robe and was taller than Jian Chen by a large amount, and even though he was standing on the ground with no unusual posture, Jian Chen could feel an indomitable pressure enshrouding him.

Seeing this elder, Jian Chen couldn’t help but heighten his guard as his face grew more serious. Staring deeply at the elder, he spoke 3 words, “Great Saint Master!”

The elder laughed, “Little baby, I didn’t think you’d be able to tell this old man’s strength. Not bad, not bad. Truly not bad. It would appear you have some strength, it is no wonder that old bastard Tianxiong Lie wasn’t able to capture you.”

Chapter 154: Killing A Great Saint Master

(Part One)

Jian Chen sucked in a deep breath; although he had long since guessed that the chances of a Great Saint Master coming after him for the ten thousand purple coins were quite large, he didn't think it'd be so soon. There was no fear within Jian Chen's heart, although he couldn't say for sure that he could win against a Great Saint Master expert, he had confidence that he could at least fight against one to some degree.

At the same time, Jian Chen was also secretly rejoicing. He was rejoicing his foresight that had told him to first cultivate until he was a Saint Master. If he hadn't, then if he were to come across a Great Saint Master, he would have no choice but to try and escape.

Against this elderly Great Saint Master, Jian Chen had felt a huge amount of pressure. Quickly, he had calmed himself down and stared at the elder with a barely calm expression. "Dear elder, could it be that you were also enticed by the ten thousand purple coins for my capture?"

"The baby asks a question he already knows the answer to. This old one won't spare any talk with you. Come along with me quietly, or I'll do it myself. You must have realized by now that I am not like the previous 10 Saint Masters you just fought." The elder casually looked at Jian Chen, but he did not see Jian Chen as an opponent.

Jian Chen let out a sneer as the Light Wind Sword reappeared within his right hand. As he grasped the hilt of the sword, the tip

dragged against the ground as he spoke, “Waiting to be captured and delivered was never my style. Dear elder, this one thanks you for your smart idea.” Suddenly, Jian Chen disappeared into a blur with only the smallest of traces of his figure as he flew toward the elder. In a split second, the 20 meter gap between the two was quickly closed as the Light Wind Sword began to emit a strong amount of Sword Qi and stabbed at the elder’s throat.

The careless expression on the elder’s face was gone in an instant and was replaced by a serious one. His palm began to envelop with a strong amount of Saint Force before condensing into a foot long dagger. In the elder’s hands, it shone coldly as it greeted the Light Wind Sword’s approach.

The Light Wind Sword and the elder’s dagger collided against each other with a large sound. Immediately a large wave of Saint Force emerged in waves from the impact and spread out in a circle around them in a manner that was noticeable to the naked eye. As it rippled away from the two fighters, the surrounding grass was immediately flattened as the wave of Saint Force rippled over it. It had even kicked up a dust cloud from the ground and immediately caused visibility to be lowered.

A slight hum could be heard from Jian Chen’s throat as he was forced to fly back a few meters. For every step, a deep imprint could be seen in the dirt.

“The strength of a Great Saint Master is indeed very strong. I didn’t think that even after making a break through to the Saint Master level, there would still be such a wide gap between the two.” Jian Chen muttered. With this current exchange with the

elder, it was Jian Chen who had been at a disadvantage. After all, in a battle of strength with Saint Force, how could Jian Chen who was only at the Saint Master stage contend against the elder who was at the Great Saint Master.

Yet, Jian Chen was also secretly delighted. After making contact with the elder, he had realized just how wide that gap in strength was, and how close he was to the elder's level, making him quite happy.

On the other side, the elder's face grew even more serious as he looked at Jian Chen and spoke solemnly, "The baby here seems to be quite complicated. It seems that if this old one wants to capture you, then this old one better put in more effort."

Jian Chen's face carried a cold smile, "Even if you do everything you can, you won't be able to capture me."

The elder laughed with a chilling smile, "The baby knows how to talk big, then allow this old one to observe and see just how strong you are."

After he had finished speaking, the elder's dagger exploded with Saint Force. Following that explosion of energy, the elder suddenly disappeared and then abruptly reappeared right in front of Jian Chen with his dagger ready to pierce through Jian Chen's heart.

Because the elder was a Great Saint Master, Jian Chen didn't dare lower his concentration. The Saint Force within his body began to circulate and gather around the Light Wind Sword within his right

hand. Forming a white haze of Sword Qi over the blade, Jian Chen swung his sword at the incoming dagger.

Suddenly, another explosion of energy could be seen as the shockwave was sent throughout the area. The dirt on the ground was sent flying into the air as the clash of Saint Force immediately pressed against the ground. Countless plants were uprooted and sent into the air.

In one strike, Jian Chen was once again sent flying back a few steps while the elder was once again unaffected and instead chased after the retreating Jian Chen with his dagger aimed at Jian Chen's heart.

Jian Chen's body shifted to the side, causing the dagger to harmlessly slice past his clothes. After, the Light Wind Sword's Sword Qi enshrouded the elder within and in a split second, he had lashed out 10 times with each sword stroke aimed at various parts of the elder's body.

The elder brought back his dagger and brandished it in front of him, defending himself against the various strikes.

“Ding ding ding ding...”

The sounds of the weapons clashing together could be heard as the Light Wind Sword and dagger continuously hit each other in a split second.

Suddenly, the elder retreated fiercely as the robe he was wearing was no longer in a completely intact state. On his chests there were a few scars that were leaking blood. From the other parts of his robes, a few strands and patches were already falling down to the ground. Even on top of his head, a few strands of his hair could be seen drifting in the wind after being cut.

Right in front of him, Jian Chen did not look to be in a better state. Although there wasn't any injuries on his body, his face was a morbidly pale shade.

Seeing how his clothes had been ripped apart in such a manner, the elder looked at Jian Chen with a calculating look, "You really can't see a favor when it comes, don't blame me when I don't show mercy then."

Jian Chen only laughed, "Many Saint Masters have died by my sword, but never could I claim to have killed a Great Saint Master with my Light Wind Sword. Today, you shall be the first."

"How arrogant!" The elder snarled as he sped toward Jian Chen without any further words to be said.

Chapter 155: Killing A Great Saint Master (Part Two)

Without any fear, Jian Chen charged forward with his Light Wind Sword and once more clashed fiercely with the elder.

This time, Jian Chen had used his entire strength and Profound Steps to clash against the elder. Using his Light Wind Sword to stab at the elder continuously, he simultaneously dodged each and every strike from his opponent. From the beginning of this new round, he had avoided clashing his weapon with the elder's, and it was only when it was impossible to dodge that he used his sword to defend.

The Elder's control over his dagger was superb, and it was almost as if he had reached the absolute pinnacle with his weapon. Almost as if each strike was an act of perfection, the dagger always flew straight toward Jian Chen's heart.

The two fighters traveled back and forth throughout the area, their movements had kicked up a strong breeze. Already, the breeze was starting to become a strong gale that threatened to uproot the surrounding grass and send it flying into the air.

The two continued to go at each other, but under the fine control of Jian Chen, his own Saint Weapon had rarely crashed against the elder's dagger. With each passing moment, the elder was getting more and more depressed, he was feeling a deep pit of anger within himself. His strength was clearly higher than that of his opponent, but because his opponent had the slight advantage in speed and also boasted a superior reaction time, there were plenty of times

when the elder was unable to find a solution to do anything. There were also many times where even with his Saint Master strength, the terrifyingly fast speed of the sword had left the elder at a critical junction between life and death.

“Little baby, you call yourself a male yet you fight an elderly person without hesitation to such a degree. Just what point is there to that?” The elder barked out with anger as he couldn’t handle this battle any longer.

Hearing this, Jian Chen had a small smile on his face, “To try to get an easy and short merit, this was an unwise choice, do you think I am that foolish?”

The elder was temporarily stunned without saying a word. A flash of killing intent quickly passed through his eyes as he quickly leaped toward Jian Chen once more with his dagger ready to kill him.

Knowing that the elder no longer had any idea of letting him live, Jian Chen’s eyes flashed with a tint of coldness before increasing his speed by a notch. The amount of Sword Qi in the air intensified and looked as if the entire area was covered within its shroud which made it almost impossible for the two to find each other.

With the increased amount of strength on Jian Chen’s part, the amount of pressure on the elder was increased many times over. Despite being a Great Saint Master with a good amount of speed, he was unable to match Jian Chen in almost any aspect and was constantly put in a state of panic.

“Whoosh!”

At the same time, a Sword Qi sharpened blade came out of the mist abruptly. The elder simply had no time to react and so the sharp sword immediately cut through his right arm at the wrist.

The pain from losing his right hand caused the elder to be stunned. Yet while he was stunned, the Light Wind Sword had quickly flashed toward the elder's figure.

The elder quickly held his dagger in his other hand in front of him to act as a form of defense as he tried to retreat backward.

Suddenly, before he could get far, the elder came to a screeching halt as a bloody sword stabbed straight through his throat and protruded underneath his chin.

He didn't know how or when Jian Chen had gotten behind him only that his Light Wind Sword had already stabbed straight through his throat, landing a killing blow.

The elder's dazed eyes viewed the sword in his throat with a look of pure disbelief. He was utterly confused on how Jian Chen could sneak behind him without him noticing.

Yet, the questions the elder had would never be answered as his body slowly locked up and fell to the ground. Both of his eyes grew wide and clouded over as a sign of death.

Jian Chen pulled out his sword with a breath of air escaping from his lips. Fighting this Great Saint Master had cost him a large amount of his energy, and after this fight, he was starting to breathe heavily.

Absorbing his Light Wind Sword into his body once more, he looked at the elderly figure on the floor. With a small sigh, he muttered, "To have dozens of years of cultivation destroyed in a single day, ai, there was no need for that. If only you didn't have greed seduce your heart into attacking me, you wouldn't have ended up like that." With that said, Jian Chen bent over to pick up the Space Belt on the elder and began to take out every item from within.

The amount of monster cores within the elder's Space Belt didn't number more than the amount Jian Chen had; only having around 50 monster cores in total. However, the lowest ranked monster core was a Class 2 Monster Core, there was not a single Class 1 Monster Core in sight. Over half were Class 2 Monster Cores and 20 Class 3 Monster Cores. There was also a single Class 4 Monster Core. Aside from the monster cores, Jian Chen also counted around 70 purple coins worth of money.

After storing the monster cores and purple coins within his Space Belt, Jian Chen turned over the Space Belt within his hand once more before realizing there was a piece of white fur within it.

This piece of white fur was about the size of his palm. It was soft to touch and seemed extremely cozy to hold; there was also a warm sensation to it.

“This piece of fur...” Jian Chen stared at the fur in his hand with some shock. Immediately throwing the Space Belt to the ground, he dove into his own Space Ring from within his Space Belt and took out a red embroidered pouch.

This red pouch was the memento and family heirloom of the Bi Clan that was handed down to him from his mother Bi Yuntian.

Jian Chen’s fingers nimbly opened up the pouch to take out the piece of white fur from within. His hands began to shake as he unfolded the piece of fur, only to see that the one from within the red pouch was also the size of his palm.

As Jian Chen compared the two pieces of fur closely, his eyes widened more and more in shock. That was because these two pieces of fur were almost identical, even the texture of the fur was the same. From the looks of things, it was almost as if the two pieces of fur came from one single piece that was cut into multiple parts.

“This is...” Jian Chen’s eyes looked back to the elder’s resting body once more as his heart began to beat. The piece of fur from within the red pouch was the family heirloom of the Bi Clan. To this day, the heirloom must have been well over 100 years old, and although he didn’t know what use this piece of fur was for, the antiquity and price for it was clearly self evident. To be treasured by the Bi Clan whose accumulated strength had been wiped out in a single night, it was simple to see that this piece of fur would surely have a high price. At this moment, to unexpectedly find an identical piece of fur from this Great Saint Master of an elder, Jian

Chen couldn't help but wonder who this elder was.

Chapter 156: Fearsome Reputation And Profit

“Why did this elder have this piece of fur on him, just who was he?” Jian Chen held the piece of fur in his hand as he contemplated this question.

“Perhaps he gained this piece of fur by coincidence. However, just what secret is this piece of fur hiding?” Jian Chen muttered under his breath. He had accidentally found this piece of fur from the elder and thus had been tempted by this strange and curious new find.

“Could this be a type of treasure map with some sort of amazing martial arts written on it?” Jian Chen pondered. Based on his previous experience from his past life, he quickly conjured up a few speculations. However, this piece of fur didn’t have a single trace of impurity to it. There were absolutely no connections to be drawn to it; it appeared to be unrelated to a treasure map or any sort of unique martial art.

Many times in the past did Jian Chen take out the piece of fur to study it. Under his eyes and hands, the fur was strong and flexible, and no matter how much strength he used, not a single strand of fur could be pulled from it. It wasn’t like a normal piece of fur, so if there was a secret hidden within the fur, Jian Chen was utterly clueless.

“Forget it, it’s best to forget about this for now. There’ll be another time in the future for me to find out the secrets of this mysterious piece of fur.” Pushing his curiosity away, Jian Chen

placed the piece of fur back into the red pouch along with the piece from the elder back into his Space Ring. The Space Ring was then placed back into his Space Belt as well. Since Jian Chen wasn't able to figure out the mystery behind the pieces of fur, he didn't want to expend any additional mental energy to stay in such a place to find out more about it.

Soon after the elder's Space Belt was rummaged through once more. Finally, with one last look, Jian Chen didn't find any other valuable treasure, so he tossed it aside. Dusting his hands, Jian Chen left the area without another look back.

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After another few days, Jian Chen continued to find and capture any mercenary group that came across him. The amount of monster cores on him could be said to number up to a high amount, and whenever he saw a group of mercenaries he found interesting, he would let them go. For those who weren't pleasing to talk to, he would kill them. In those few days, the amount of mercenaries killed by Jian Chen couldn't be counted, and the amount of bodies that littered the Magical Beast Mountain Range was enormous. The scent of blood and death wafted throughout the mountain range, almost as if the scent of blood covered the entire area like an ocean.

It went without saying that many people were tempted by the ten thousand purple coin reward by the Tianxiong clan. This time, there were many Saint Master experts within the mountain range along with a few strong Great Saint Masters. Excluding the dagger wielding elder Jian Chen had first met, there were another 4 Great

Saint Masters that he had come across. There were even 2 Great Saint Masters that had come across Jian Chen along with 30 Great Saints and Saint Master experts.

That particular battle was extremely fierce. In the end, Jian Chen had expended a herculean amount of strength in order to kill those 2 Great Saint Masters, and many of the other Great Saints and Saint Masters were killed off by Jian Chen. Jian Chen paid for the battle by having various wounds inflicted onto his body, and when a good amount of mercenaries had fled from him, Jian Chen was powerless to chase after them.

Since Jian Chen could use the light Saint Force in the same way a Radiant Saint Master could. He wasn't afraid of any injury, and so the numerous injuries on his body were healed without a single trace in less than two hours.

Although the battle was extremely fierce, Jian Chen had gained an equally abundant reward. The two Great Saint Masters had a total of a hundred monster cores. There were very few Class 2 Monster Cores and a very large amount of Class 3 Monster Cores. There had even been two Class 4 Monster Cores stashed within.

Although the amount of monster cores he had collected from the two Great Saint Masters was a large quantity, the Great Saint and Saint Master mercenaries accompanying the two only had a total of 30 monster cores. They must have belonged to the same mercenary group and given the majority of their monster cores to the 2 Great Saint Masters.

Another Great Saint Masters he encountered didn't have any

Class 4 Monster Cores, but he did have a decent amount of Class 3 Monster Cores. In comparison to the first encounter, there was only twenty Class 3 Monster Cores and thirty Class 2 Monster Cores. The last Great Saint Master he met was extremely wretched. Jian Chen had only been able to collect five Class 3 Monster Cores and a single Class 2 Monster Core. Although he was a Great Saint Master, he might as well be considered an experienced Saint Master.

Now after Jian Chen's breakthrough to the Saint Master level, his fighting ability had been enhanced. Against a Great Saint Master expert, he already had the capabilities to kill them; as long as he didn't come across a Peak Great Saint Master or one with an attributed Saint Force, Jian Chen wouldn't need to fear the consequences of fighting against one. After these few days of killing mercenaries, aside from the two Great Saint Masters who had inflicted many injuries on him, Jian Chen hadn't been too heavily injured against anyone else.

After this indiscriminate massacre, Jian Chen's fearful name had spread far and wide to even beyond the mountain range where many mercenaries had started to spread the news even farther away. By this point, Wake City wasn't the only area that had knowledge of Jian Chen, even the surrounding cities knew of Jian Chen's terrifying name.

Hearing the rumors flying about, many mercenaries still traveled from afar to the Magical Beast Mountain Range. Many mercenaries that wanted to capture Jian Chen gradually renounced their efforts. Every day many cowardly mercenaries could be seen retreating from the mountain range and abandoning the hunt.

Despite having many mercenaries retreat from the mountain range, there were still many stronger mercenary groups that stayed within the area. After the weaker mercenaries left, there weren't many people left in comparison to when the hunt had begun, but all of the remaining members were of the Saint Master level at the very least.

After a large amount of mercenaries had left the Magical Beast Mountain Range, the area had become peaceful once more compared to the chaotic atmosphere when everyone had wanted to capture Jian Chen. Even the mercenaries that were originally there to hunt and kill magical beasts for their monster cores were driven out from the area to avoid any trouble.

Now that there were even less people than before, Jian Chen took the initiative instead of staying passive to find the remaining mercenaries. Regarding those mercenaries he found, he still used the same philosophy he always had. If they were to hand over their monster cores, then he would let them go without any harm without exception, but for those too stubborn to listen and still wanted to capture him, Jian Chen would kill them without exception.

Within the cloudless sky, the fierce sun loomed overhead with its brilliant rays of light stabbing into the earth below almost as if it were putting a golden colored carpet over it. Because of the recent summer weather, the sun had been unbearably hot.

In the lush forests of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, it was almost like an isolated piece of the world. There were trees in every direction of the forest that blotted out the sun and its light.

Every so often, the tree leaves would sway in the wind along with the tall grass underneath.

While the outside area was hot, the forest within the Magical Beast Mountain Range was rather cool.

Somewhere within the mountain range, 10 mercenaries sat in a circle with a bonfire in the center. Spiked on top of the fire were a few pieces of magical beast meat that slowly caramelized and dripped their juices into the fire below with the occasional sizzling sound.

Although these 10 mercenaries were sitting down, their height and stature weren't hidden at all. Each one of them wore a thin layer of animal leather that had a few scratches from the thorns and thistles of the forest.

“Captain, there's been many mercenaries that have left the mountain range with not many people left. At the same time, Jian Chen's strength has far surpassed our expectations; just a few days ago I heard that a few Great Saint Masters died by his hands as well. I think it would be for the best that we give up on this mission.” One of the mercenaries said.

Chapter 157: Should We?

Just as this one mercenary finished talking, another spoke up, “That’s right, Captain. Although we haven’t come across Jian Chen yet, on the road we’ve already seen over 100 corpses. After a closer look, most of them appear to be close friends within Wake City who are all above the Saint Master level. If Jian Chen can kill a group of Saint Master experts, then his own strength should be that of a Great Saint Master at the very least. Even if we were to face off against him, it’s not guaranteed that we’ll capture him without any losses or serious casualties. I’m afraid that even our complete destruction might be a possible outcome.”

Hearing that mercenary, the other 10 mercenaries couldn’t help but have serious expressions on their faces. This new-found information had sent their heads into a whirl as they realized that if they wanted to capture Jian Chen alive with their Middle Saint Master strength, they would need more effort than they had thought. After all, with their formation, they were capable of going up against a Great Saint Master and the news given to them by the Tianxiong clan explicitly said that Jian Chen had only Great Saint strength. At the very best he would be at the Saint Master level, so at the very beginning, they hadn’t bothered to take Jian Chen seriously.

However, now that they had been wandering within the Magical Beast Mountain Range for a few days, news of Jian Chen’s amazing prowess had reached their ears about how multiple Great Saint Masters had died by his hand. Although they didn’t believe these rumors at first, after seeing corpses litter the ground wherever they went had shaken their confidence.

Right now, these 10 mercenaries were in an awkward position where it was difficult to call off the hunt. They wanted to capture Jian Chen, but at the same time, they worried about going against him. They wanted to retreat from the mountain range, but they were also unwilling to give up the ten thousand purple coin reward that had so enticingly tempted their hearts.

“Captain, we should give up this mission. The fact that we’ve seen so many bodies on our paths is proof of Jian Chen’s might. If we were to come across Jian Chen even with our numbers, we would still not be considered his opponent and would undoubtedly have many people die by his hands.” A scarred middle aged man spoke with fear prevalent in his eyes.

“I second Yun Zhibing’s suggestion. Captain, while ten thousand purple coins isn’t a small amount by any means, but it can’t be spent if we’re dead. If we die here, there isn’t any point to money or enjoying any other worldly pleasure.” Another tanned person spoke.

Hearing these mercenaries speak up, a mercenary with a knife wound slowly nodded his head and said, “Fine then, let us get off of this mountain range.”

With that announcement, every other mercenary let out a breath of air in relief as the tense expressions on their faces loosened up a bit.

“It’s a shame that you cannot walk in the night!”

Suddenly, a moment after the mercenaries were happily rejoicing, another voice was heard.

The new arrival of the voice had caused every mercenary to stiffen.

“Who’s there, come out!” The scarred mercenary called out as he stood up. At the same time, the other 10 mercenaries slowly stood up as well staring cautiously at the dangerous area around them.

Suddenly, a leather wearing person slowly came walking out from behind the trees. This person had long black hair with a piece of tall grass keeping it in place. There were stains all over his skin as he walked forward, but no one could distinguish who he was.

The 10 mercenaries collectively looked at this animal hide wearing person as the knife scarred mercenary yelled out, “Who are you?!”

The animal hide wearing person began to smile with the shadows of the night still covering the rest of his facial features, but the smile could be seen clearly, “I’m the person you’re looking for.”

Bewildered, not a single mercenary could react to this announcement besides having their faces pale abruptly.

“You...you...could you be that Jian Chen?” A man stuttered out. There was an expression of utter panic that had overtaken his face.

The animal hide wearing person nodded his head slowly with a smile, “That’s right, I am Jian Chen.”

There was a miraculous expression on the mercenaries face as they looked at Jian Chen who stared right back at them. None of them had thought that the person they had been looking for all this time would suddenly appear right in front of them just as they had decided to retreat from the Magical Beast Mountain Range.

If Jian Chen appeared a few days ago, these 10 mercenaries would have been overjoyed to see him and wouldn’t have any hesitation. But now...

At this moment, there was a wave of agony that smashed into their hearts.

“Hand over all of the monster cores in your possession and you may leave. Otherwise, you will die here. I’ll give you a few moments to consider your options.” Jian Chen spoke out. His tone was unnaturally calm, but when these mercenaries heard him speak, their hearts all grew heavy.

The 10 mercenaries looked at each other as the leader spoke up, “Honored Jian Chen, the moment you opened your mouth, you wanted us to give up our monster cores, isn’t that too much? After all, these monster cores were earned after so much hard work and risking our lives in order to get even just one more monster core.” He said with an unwillingness. Right after hearing the rumors of Jian Chen killing multiple Great Saint Master experts, the leader had given up on seeing Jian Chen as an enemy.

Jian Chen laughed, “I don’t care for that. Your time is up now, if you don’t hand over your monster cores, then don’t blame me for what happens next.”

Hearing this, the 10 mercenaries all grew unhappy. The leader hesitated for merely a moment before striding forward, “Honored Jian Chen, if you can defeat me within 5 moves, then I will hand over our monster cores. Otherwise, we will just end up in a complete stalemate.”

Jian Chen’s eyes flashed dangerously for a moment as he looked at the leader. “Fine, I’ll defeat you in 5 moves then.” In an instant, an intense amount of Saint Force appeared within his hand as a silver sword materialized.

“Everyone move back!” The middle aged man waved his own Saint Weapon, ready to slash at Jian Chen with the might of his two handed sword.

Chapter 158: Three Moves

Seeing Jian Chen and their leader brandishing their weapons, the other mercenaries began to move back to watch the two fight.

The scarred mercenary clenched onto his Saint Weapon as he stared firmly at Jian Chen. His face was unnaturally serious, whether or not he would be able to keep his monster cores, would be determined by this battle.

Although it was impossible for a Great Saint Master to defeat a Peak Saint Master in 5 moves, Jian Chen's agreement to this duel had refreshed the mercenary's courage. With no hesitation in his step, he was motivated to try and accomplish the task. For this middle aged man, the amount of pressure on him was tremendous.

Alas, there was still a small amount of worry within his heart. With Jian Chen's simple agreement to this duel, would he try and eliminate him given an opportunity? Knowing this possibility, he still didn't dare to voice out his thoughts. He would just have to try it. While it was true he wanted to save his monster cores, he also wanted to test out Jian Chen's strength. Seeing how young he was, he didn't know how he could be as strong as the rumors said, just how could someone who was barely over 20 years old kill a Great Saint Master expert?

The leader's face hardened into a serious expression while Jian Chen smiled and extended his hand, "Come!"

Sparing any politeness, the Saint Force around the mercenary's

great sword exploded with intensity as he charged toward Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's body disappeared into a blur as he rushed toward the man with his Light Wind Sword ready to stab at him in a brilliant gleam of silver light.

Seeing Jian Chen's sword disappear, the mercenary's pupils contracted in surprise as he suddenly whipped his great sword down to where he thought the Light Wind Sword would appear.

“Ding!”

The sound of steel striking against steel could be heard as the two Saint Weapons were entangled together in a fierce stalemate. A wave of Saint Force exploded out from the swords and swept over the area like a galestorm.

Just as the Saint Weapons collided with each other, the mercenary's face began to change as his eyes widened in shock. The seemingly slender and thin sword contained such a disproportionate amount of Saint Force, causing his giant sword to tremble and his arms to go numb.

“To end up in a deadlock against me with such a slim one handed sword, it would appear the rumors were not as empty as I thought.” The mercenary muttered under his breath.

Just as the mercenary was thinking to himself, the second strike

was already coming at a faster pace than the first one.

Becoming even more serious than before, the mercenary was barely given enough time to react to Jian Chen's sword. Trying to resist the numb sensation within his arms, he raised his sword horizontally to block the Light Wind Sword.

The moment the Light Wind Sword stabbed into the greatsword, an incredible amount of power was transmitted through the sword into the mercenary behind it who was forced a few steps back. As for the sword in his hands, it had started to tremble and shake under the pressure.

“You've already lost!”

Just as the mercenary finally regained his stability, another voice came from behind. Whipping around, the man's face grew pale and sweat began to gather on his forehead as he saw what was behind him.

Pointing right behind him was an amazingly thin sword that was only centimeters away from his body. The tip of that sword was already pointing straight at his throat.

The man's face grew sluggish as he looked at the sword threatening to pierce his throat in disbelief. There was just simply no words he could say.

At this sudden reveal, the other 10 mercenaries behind the two

fighters also looked on in disbelief. Their eyes revealed a sluggish look as they saw the sword calmly pointing at their leader's neck. Not a single of them had anything to say.

“This is the third move, you've lost!”

Taking back the Light Wind Sword, Jian Chen looked at the mercenary with a calm face.

Three moves! Jian Chen had only used three moves to defeat a Peak Saint Master!

The leader quickly looked at Jian Chen with a fearful face. Swallowing, his voice began to stutter as he said, “Wh...what a fa..fast sword...”

Jian Chen gave a faint laugh, “You should know what to do right about now.”

The fear in the leader's eyes quickly calmed down as he looked at Jian Chen. Although Jian Chen was completely covered by filth, the mercenary could see how young Jian Chen really was.

The man absorbed his sword back into his body and cupped his hands together, “I thank honored one for his mercy.” Then turning to walk back to the other mercenaries, he spoke out in a low voice, “Everyone take out all your monster cores.”

Hearing this, the mercenaries all hesitated for a moment before

accepting this outcome. The ten pulled the monster cores within their Space Belt one by one.

After watching their leader fight with Jian Chen, they understood that he only wanted their monster cores. Not killing them was already a huge favor granted to them, and if they didn't hand over the monster cores, with Jian Chen's strength, their entire mercenary group would be slaughtered. If their own leader who was the strongest of them all couldn't even withstand 5 moves from Jian Chen, then they had no chance.

The scarred mercenary took out a bag from within his Space Belt and began to place all of the monster cores he had in that bag. Then without any command from Jian Chen, he immediately began to take the other mercenaries monster cores and collected them into the bag. In the end, he presented the bag to Jian Chen with a lingering gaze and said, "In that bag are all the monster cores we have."

This bag of monster cores had around 100 inside. Around half of them were Class 3 Monster Cores and the rest were Class 2 Monster Cores with barely any Class 1 Monster Cores.

Jian Chen took the bag into his own hands into his Space belt and said, "I, Jian Chen, abide by my promises. You are free to go."

Without any further words, the scarred mercenary led the other mercenaries away from the area.

Seeing the group disappear into the horizon, Jian Chen let out a

breath of air. Leaning carelessly against a tree next to him, he muttered, “These past few days have been so repetitive. However, despite it being so tiring, I’ve earned quite a lot. The amount of monster cores I’ve earned should be enough to last my cultivation needs for a very long time. Ai, I don’t even know if I should thank the Tianxiong Clan or hate them.”

After taking a small break, Jian Chen stood back up and said, “Right now there’s practically no one left in the Magical Beast Mountain Range. With such a huge area to search, I’m far too lazy to look in each zone. Forget it, I’ve already got enough monster cores. I’ll let the rest go and cultivate my strength in the meantime. Otherwise, if I were to come across multiple Great Saint Masters at once, I doubt I’ll be an opponent for them.”

Chapter 159: A Breakthrough In Strength

Afterward, Jian Chen found a river based on his memories, and washed away all the filth on his body. He then took out and then put on a new set of clothes from his Space Belt.

He had been wearing crude clothes put together from animal skins for quite a long time, so when he put on soft, cloth clothing, a comfortable feeling instantly spread throughout his body. Jian Chen seemed to revel in the warm feeling the cloth gave off as he smoothed it over his body. In that instant, his mental state that had been so tightly wound the past few days finally relaxed.

After that, Jian Chen killed a magical beast in the forest and tore off a large and fatty hind leg. He then found a dry spot on the ground to build a fire and began to slowly roast the meat.

After filling his empty stomach, Jian Chen began to count the profits from the past few days. When Jian Chen took out all of the monster cores in his Space Belt and placed them on the ground, they formed a pile that was around 1 meter high. Such a large amount of monster cores gathered together began to glow, as the hidden surges of power within each of them began to resonate with each other. Seeing this, Jian Chen's heart began to race.

Roughly calculating, Jian Chen concluded that this pile had at least 2000 monster cores. As for the exact number, it would be impossible to guess an accurate value without carefully flipping through them. After all, the power of a monster core was not related to any other factors.

Looking at the plentiful monster cores, Jian Chen couldn't help but smile in excitement. The rewards from the past few days were really abundant, to the point where it was hard to believe. Such a large amount of monster cores was enough for Jian Chen to cultivate for quite a while.

With an excited mood, Jian Chen took out the three Space Belts and threw them to the side. These few Space Belts had all been specifically taken from those mercenaries in preparation for this future occasion. Soon after, Jian Chen began to separate the monster cores from each other.

After 4 hours, Jian Chen had finally organized the large mass of various monsters cores. There were now 3 piles in front of him; one each for Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3.

“There are a total of around 700 Class 1 Monster Cores, 900 Class 2 Monster Cores, and 600 Class 3 Monster Cores. I hadn't imagined that I'd gain about 2300 monster cores these past few days. Haha, this is really much better than I anticipated. It seems I must really thank the Tianxiong clan. I must thank them for the great opportunity they gave me.” Jian Chen laughed to himself when he saw all of the monster cores.

Jian Chen then placed each group of monster cores into a different Space Belt. He then returned to the cave that he had been living in for a while. After covering up the entrance, he resumed cultivating.

The cave was so dark that he couldn't even see his own hand. Jian Chen sat there cross-legged, like an unmoving sculpture. If it

weren't for the faint sound of him breathing, people might've really mistaken him for a living statue.

As Jian Chen continued to absorb the energy from within the monster cores, the Saint Force within him was constantly growing stronger.

After becoming a Saint Master, the demand required for cultivation not only increased, but Jian Chen's absorption speed had also doubled. Before becoming a Great Saint, he needed to consume three Class 3 Monster Cores in a single night, which meant that he consumed almost 10 Class 3 Monster Cores for a day of cultivating without stopping. Now that his absorption speed was faster, the amount of monster cores that Jian Chen would need to absorb in a night was 6-7. Based on this, he'd end up consuming around 20 Class 3 Monster Cores in a day.

Although the amount of Class 3 Monster Cores he had to consume was a frightening number, Jian Chen wasn't concerned at all about a lack of monster cores. Not only did he have hundreds of Class 3 Monster Cores in his Space Belt, he was also in the Magical Beast Mountain Range. He could enter the deeper regions and kill Class 4 Magical Beasts any time he wanted to. Class 4 Monster Cores contained enormous amounts of energy, and far surpassed that of Class 3 Monster Cores.

In the outside world, Jian Chen's name, as well as everything he had done in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, was currently being spread everywhere. As this was happening, Jian Chen was sitting cross-legged within the dark cave, diligently raising his strength.

Time quickly passed. In the blink of an eye, a year had already passed. Within this year, the commotion that Jian Chen had caused in the outside world had gradually settled. Wake City had long since recovered to its original ways. There wasn't that big of a difference between now and a year ago. The only difference was that the Wake City's Tianxiong clan had died out.

Deep within the Magical Beast Mountain Range, there were no signs of people. Class 4 Magical Beasts roamed about the area as they pleased, and it wasn't an area that anyone could just walk around. In this area, one could go for half a month without seeing any trace of a human; this was an extremely common occurrence. This moment, a green-black mist was slowly rising nearby. The scent of roasted meat was blown through the air by the breeze, gradually diffusing it in all directions.

The figure of a cotton wearing youth could be seen sitting cross-legged with a bonfire right in front of him that burned brightly as a piece of magical beast meat was cooked over the flames.

This youth looked no older than 20 years old with his long hair tied together into a ponytail with a piece of grass. This youth was exceedingly handsome with flawless facial features along with a delicate yet roguelike look. On his calm face was a face full of charm that could practically kill any woman in the world.

This youth, was Jian Chen.

In this one year, Jian Chen hadn't left the Magical Beast

Mountain Range at all. After one year of using the monster cores from the mercenaries, there were practically no more Class 3 Monster Cores left. Only the Class 1 and 2 Monster Cores remained. In that one year, all of the Class 3 Monster cores were completely exhausted, and so Jian Chen could only use the Class 4 Monster Cores. Soon enough, even the Class 4 Monster Cores were used up, causing Jian Chen to go to the depths of the mountain range to hunt and kill Class 4 Magical Beasts before continuing to cultivate.

Time and time again, Jian Chen had continued to cultivate using the monster cores for one whole year. Jian Chen had long since left the Primary Saint Master level and reached the Peak Saint Master level. His strength had reached a point where even killing a Class 4 Magical Beast was of no problem at all.

“One year has past, how quickly time goes by. It seems that I should head out and stroll around now and stabilize my strength. Ai, after using the monster cores to cultivate, only a tiny residual of chaotic nature from the monster cores energy was left.” Jian Chen muttered to himself in front of the campfire.

After eating his fill, Jian Chen extinguished the fire before heading out from the depths of the Magical Beast Mountain Range. He had already planned on leaving the mountain range long ago, so he had prepared a few Class 4 Monster Cores to cultivate with later.

The Class 4 Magical Beasts rarely roamed around the heart of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, so it was generally more peaceful than the outside layers since Class 4 Magical Beasts were also not as common as Class 1 or 2 Magical Beasts. In this case, coming

across a Class 4 Magical Beast was not an easy task, and finding a Class 3 Magical Beast would be even easier.

“Hou!”

Just as Jian Chen walked out of the forest carefully, suddenly, a large sound exploded out from behind him. Staring in the direction in which his ear was vibrating, Jian Chen noticed that the ground he was standing on was beginning to tremble slightly as well.

Chapter 160: Appearance Of A Class 5 Magical Beast

Jian Chen instantly grew serious as he heard the abrupt heaven shaking roar. Looking in the direction of the yell, he thought to himself, “For a simple roar to have such an intense effect, this must be a Peak Class 4 Magical Beast.” Just as Jian Chen had this thought, a terrifyingly strong wave of energy made its way over to him. This wave of energy was so strong that it could be seen by the naked eye as it spread throughout the air and caused havoc. Many of the ancient tall trees were slowly drawn toward the source of energy as it overwhelmed anything in the sky.

Jian Chen grew even more solemn as he felt this extreme change in atmosphere. He was originally shocked by the wave of energy coming at him, but now he was stunned and couldn’t help but say, “With this power, it might as well be a Class 5 Magical Beast.”

The spread of the wave of energy was exceedingly fast. In a split second it had reached where Jian Chen stood, but in that moment, the energy had begun to wane in power before becoming nothing more than a strong whistle through his ears as it passed. Jian Chen’s clothes were blown slightly along with his long black hair which began to drift in the wind.

The angry roar of the magical beast continued to be heard throughout the area with an explosive sound. The wave of energy simultaneously continued to wreak havoc on the ground by shaking it.

Jian Chen’s face grew serious as he heard two different roars. His

eyes revealed a small amount of surprise as he muttered, “It seems that there’s 2 Class 5 Magical Beasts fighting each other.” Jian Chen then immediately ran in the direction of the roars.

Following the aftermath of the damage from the energy wave, Jian Chen quickly traveled toward where the fight was taking place.

500 meters ahead of Jian Chen were two Class 5 Magical Beasts fighting intensely against each other. Each and every time they clashed, a strong wave of energy surged out in all directions. Even the ground had started to be filled with holes as the two magical beasts fought each other, the craters being a few meters deep. Nearby trees were uprooted and thrown about and some were even sent flying far into the sky with the tall grass becoming nothing more than a fine powder.

Hiding 500 meters away to avoid being spotted by the two Class 5 Magical Beasts, Jian Chen stood in a bush and watched the beasts fight with an attentive eye.

Although the two magical beasts were moving at rapid speeds, Jian Chen could clearly see the minute details of their fight. Between the two magical beasts fighting, one had a color as dark as the night and a body the same size of a cow. However, on the back of its shoulders was a pair of equally dark wings.

On the other side was a tiny but snowy white dog like magical beast. Although the two magical beasts were completely different sizes, the intensity in which they were fighting at was the same.

“Hou!”

“Hou!”

The angry snarls continuously flowed from their mouths like a bullet of energy that rippled through the air. As soon as the roars left the magical beasts' mouths, the air shook with the vibrations and caused every other sound in the area to be drowned out.

“This is truly the strength of a Class 5 Magical Beast!” Jian Chen remarked as he observed the two magical beasts battle. His entire body stood firmly in place despite the ground shaking beneath him. He was however, afraid of gaining the attention of the two magical beasts and inviting unwanted trouble.

Despite Jian Chen's current strength of a Peak Saint Master and being unafraid of any Peak Class 4 Magical Beast, Jian Chen was not completely confident that he could run away from the two Class 5 Magical Beasts after this display of strength.

Although a Class 5 Magical Beast only had a single level difference with a Class 4 magical Beast, in between this gap was like the gap separating the heavens and the earth.

The two magical beasts continued to fight for over half the day before their snarls finally began to weaken. By this point in time, the two had scars and wounds all over their bodies and were barely capable of standing up. Their bellies were moving up and down as they tried to breathe in a frantic manner.

Seeing such a miserable scene, Jian Chen couldn't help but think to himself, "Judging by this, both sides are already at a disadvantageous stalemate. They don't even have the energy to stand and are completely exhausted." Jian Chen suddenly felt a surge of confidence. Even the blood within him seemed to boil in anticipation as his heart began to palpitate.

Jian Chen lay on the ground with a small look of hesitation adorning his face. Debating furiously with himself, he finally came to a conclusion. Biting his lip, he stood up onto the ground and quickly made it over to where the magical beasts were.

"Hou!"

The two magical beasts finally realized that Jian Chen was rapidly approaching and so they let out one more angry roar. Their eyes flashed dangerously at Jian Chen but other than that, they couldn't do anything else.

Just as he got within a hundred meters of the two, Jian Chen suddenly stopped as his face grew unnaturally serious. Even though the magical beasts in front of him were injured, that didn't make Jian Chen any less cautious.

Slowly walking forward, Jian Chen advanced one step at a time towards the two Class 5 Magical Beasts. At the same time, the Light Wind Sword appeared within his hand with a hazy glow surrounding the blade as if swallowing it.

“Hou!”

Class 5 Magical Beasts all had a good amount of intelligence; they had long since realized what Jian Chen was trying to do. With another threatening roar at Jian Chen, they warned him to not get any closer.

Jian Chen paid no heed to the angry roars of the magical beasts and carefully approached closer and closer to them. At the same time, Jian Chen had wanted to charge at the magical beasts to kill them, but for the sake of his own health, he had to be more cautious. After all, these were Class 5 Magical Beasts, not Class 4 Magical Beasts.

Chapter 161: Battling The Class 5 Magical Beast

Seeing how Jian Chen continued to get closer, the two tired Class 5 Magical Beasts grew even more frantic. If they were at their peak conditions, then they naturally wouldn't put a Peak Saint Master within their notice, but at this moment they were at anything but their peak condition. After such a furious battle, the two were clearly very injured and could do nothing. Even their inner energy had been completely used up. In such a state, a Saint Master, or even a Great Saint would be able to come up to them and kill them.

The two magical beasts struggled for a moment, seemingly trying to stand. However, despite their efforts, they weren't able to do even accomplish this extremely simple task.

With this pitiful display, the heart that was struggling to leap out of Jian Chen's throat finally began to calm down a little. However, he still continued to maintain a great amount of vigilance just in case something else happened.

Continuing to walk closer and closer to the magical beasts, Jian Chen had quickly gotten within 30 meters of the two. Now that he was even closer, the amount of vigilance Jian Chen had increased greatly.

“Hou!” At this moment, the snowy white colored dog like magical beast began to snarl once more. A large amount of energy gathered within its mouth before compressing to form a sphere of energy as the magical beast warned Jian Chen with its eyes.

The other cow like magical beast stared firmly at Jian Chen as the wings on its back began to shake with a fierce amount of energy emanating from it.

Jian Chen's forward advancement began to falter as he sized up the two injured magical beasts with a critical eye. Seeing how the two were gathering energy, it felt as if they were ready to take action if he got any closer.

Jian Chen had started to hesitate, despite seeing how injured these two magical beasts were, they were still emitting a strong amount of pressure at him. Just faintly, Jian Chen could detect an extremely dangerous amount of Qi radiating from the two Class 5 Magical Beasts.

The two magical beasts and Jian Chen stared nervously at each other for a moment before Jian Chen's body suddenly swayed a moment and disappeared into a blur. He had quickly charged toward the snowy white dog like magical beast with a large amount of Saint Force bursting out from within as he pushed his speed to its limits.

The short 30 meters dividing him and the magical beasts had quickly become non existent as Jian Chen flew over in a split second. Just as Jian Chen approached the dog like magical beast, his right arm shook in a smooth movement as the Light Wind Sword stabbed straight down at its belly with a sharp amount of Sword Qi enforcing the blow.

“Hou!” The Class 5 Magical Beast wasn’t slower than Jian Chen, and the moment he had reached it, the sphere of energy gathered within the magical beast’s mouth was spat out at tremendous speeds toward Jian Chen’s chest.

At that moment, Jian Chen took back his sword and immediately dodged to the side with a tremendous amount of effort, causing the sphere of energy to fly towards the side of him.

It was a shame that this sphere of energy was traveling far too fast. Despite Jian Chen’s effort to dodge the sphere, he wasn’t able to completely avoid taking damage. Originally the sphere had tried to slam against Jian Chen’s chest, but since Jian Chen had moved his body, it had struck firmly against his left shoulder.

“Bang!”

The sphere of energy was only the size of a small fist, but the amount of energy it contained was terrifying. As a result of the sphere smashing against Jian Chen’s left shoulder, his entire body was sent flying backward.

After flying 10 meters into the air, Jian Chen crashed down onto the ground and rolled away painfully before slowly reaching a painful stop. His face began to shake and started to drain of blood as a fierce amount of pain could be felt coming from his left shoulder.

Jian Chen’s clothes around his shoulder had been completely shredded because of that sphere of energy. At the same time, the

entire top part of his body was in agony as his left shoulder had become mutilated to the point where the bones could be seen and blood continued to flow from his wound freely.

Jian Chen tried to resist the intense amount of pain from his left shoulder as even moving it had tormented him. Standing up painfully, Jian Chen's eyes swung toward that dog like magical beast.

After that magical beast had attacked, the expression it had wilted as its eyes dimmed in luster. It appeared that the attack it used had used up the last of its energy so in its current condition, it was even more tired than before.

Despite the attack having caused a serious amount of damage to Jian Chen, it had not impacted his movements all that much. With a small blur, Jian Chen had already moved toward the magical beast once more with the Light Wind Sword out and ready to strike with its Sword Qi.

“Keng!”

Just as the Light Wind Sword lashed out, a white colored blur slammed firmly against the blade of the Light Wind Sword and caused it to divert from its original trajectory and stab into nothing but air. Immediately, Jian Chen looked at the blur but he wasn't able to figure out what exactly had block his sword before feeling another source of pain on his chest.

“Deng deng deng...”

The fierce amount of attacks on Jian Chen caused him to stumble a few steps back as he felt a scorching pain on his chest. Tilting his head down, he saw that his chest had turned a very deep red and blood had started to leak from it.

Forcibly swallowing the blood in his throat, Jian Chen looked at the Class 5 Magical Beast on the ground only to see the long tail of it swaying feebly behind it. It was this tail that had just attacked Jian Chen.

“Hmph, I didn’t think I’d come across such a strong resistance against these Class 5 Magical Beasts, but today I will definitely take your monster core.” Jian Chen bit his lip before letting his Light Wind Sword separate itself from his hand and fly toward the magical beast.

Against such a swift Sword Qi, the Class 5 Magical Beast was powerless to dodge and could only try and endure the incoming strike.

The Sword Qi accurately shot through one of the wounds of the magical beast, causing the entire body of the beast to tremble. There was no hesitation in Jian Chen’s movements, moving forward with his Light Wind Sword, his weapon struck the beast in the throat.

“Pch!”

This time the dog like magical beast had already used up all of its

energy to the point where even its tail wasn't able to be moved.

The Light Wind Sword met no obstruction as it stabbed deeply into the magical beast's throat. Then, the sword slid straight through the neck and then into the ground beneath it.

Chapter 162: Smooth Killing

Seeing the Class 5 Magical Beast finally take damage, Jian Chen let out a breath in relief. The strength of a Class 5 Magical Beast was indeed strong to where even a Peak Class 4 Magical Beast was nothing more than an annoying ant to them. Against a heavily injured magical beast that couldn't even muster up the energy to stand, even Jian Chen had somehow sustained a grievous amount of damage.

Just as Jian Chen let out a breath of air, an intense amount of energy suddenly came toward him. Jian Chen's face grew shocked as he immediately looked up only to see a meter long crescent shaped blade of wind come at him from the other magical beast's wings. This crescent shaped blade of wind carried so much energy that it caused Jian Chen to become even more serious.

Jian Chen's expression became grim as he rolled to the side without any further hesitation to dodge the blade of wind. The crescent shaped wind flew by Jian Chen's hair, causing a few strands to fly away after being cut.

The crescent continued on at an extremely fast speed that destroyed anything in its path without mercy. Finally it flew a hundred meters into the ground exploded with tremendous force causing dirt and dust to be kicked up into the air.

With his body violently moving in such a way that his left shoulder had smashed into the ground several times after rolling, the pain he felt surged through his body intensely and caused his nerves to be tormented. The skin continued to spasm as he grit his

teeth in pain and tried to resist the sensations. Right now there was only one Class 5 Magical Beast left who was glaring angrily because Jian Chen had managed to only get away with an injury.

Then, the cow like magical beast with black fur began to gather up energy once more as the wings on its back began to emanate a sort of black glow. The amount of energy floating around the area quickly went from weak to strong, the energy near the wings was even stronger. However, the glint in the magical beast's eye grew even dimmer and before long, it wasn't even able to muster up the energy to keep its eyes completely open anymore.

Sensing the strong amount of energy come from the wings of the Class 5 Magical Beast, Jian Chen couldn't help but retreat a few steps backward with a heavy face in preparation to dodge the incoming attack.

"Hou!" The magical beast roared with an extremely loud voice as if it was warning Jian Chen once more to not advance. He could see in the magical beast's eyes that it was in a completely weakened state. Yet the energy condensed on its wings was ready to fire like a drawn bow. This was the last opportunity for the magical beast to live, the energy within this attack was all that was left of the magical beast's supply. If this attack missed, the magical beast would be nothing more than a lamb to the slaughter.

Jian Chen's legs took a few steps backward as he stared intensely at the magical beast with even more vigilance than ever. At this moment, the Light Wind Sword abruptly flew from Jian Chen's hand high into the air toward the magical beast and then over it before turning around to strike at it from behind.

Just as Jian Chen was about to make his move. The wings on the magical beast began to tremble as a huge crescent shaped blade of wind blew toward Jian Chen.

Jian Chen had already anticipated such a move, and when the magical beast shot out the crescent shaped gust of wind, he rolled on the ground once more. Carefully making sure that his left shoulder wouldn't drag across the ground, he dodged the attack.

Soon after it attacked with it's wings, the magical beast looked as if it had lost every bit of energy it had. The bright colors in its eyes lost its luster and adopted a weary look.

At the same time, the Light Wind Sword in the air began to tremble as it fell down with a tremendous amount of Sword Qi radiating from the entirety of its blade. Soon enough, the entire sword was wrapped within a light glow.

Bathed within the white glow, the Light Wind Sword's blade couldn't be seen from the outside, making it seem very mysterious. Immediately following the sound of the sound barrier being broken, the Light Wind Sword flew toward the back of the magical beast with a tremendous speed.

“Kacha!”

The loud sound of a collision could be heard as the extremely sharp point of the Light Wind Sword broke through the skull of the magical beast and inserted itself deeply into its brain.

“Hou~~~”

The magical beast let out a miserable scream that rang through the air and even shook the eardrums of Jian Chen with its vibrations.

The vibrations began to weaken after some time before disappearing completely along with the remaining light in the magical beast's pupils. Quickly, the eyelids of the magical beast closed off its eyes to the world.

With some effort, Jian Chen crawled up from the ground unsteadily with a pale face as he looked at the Light Wind Sword that was impaled in the magical beast's skull. He couldn't help but have a victorious smile adorn his face at this fortunate sight.

“It finally died, the strength of a Class 5 Magical Beast is indeed strong. I didn't think two heavily injured Class 5 Magical Beasts would require so much effort to kill. It seems that the last encounter with the Golden Fur Tiger King wasn't the full extent of its strength.” Jian Chen murmured weakly.

Afterward, Jian Chen walked toward the cow like magical beast and pulled out his sword from the head. Sitting down, he began to gather the Radiant Saint Force within the World Essence and condense it within his body.

He wasn't in any serious rush to deal with the corpses of these two magical beasts. In the first place, his body wasn't in any

condition to work with the carcasses. There was also the fact that there may be other magical beasts in the vicinity, so Jian Chen's first priority would be to quickly hurry up and heal himself.

Since Jian Chen had broken through to become a Peak Saint Master, his spirit had also increased as well. He could now control the Radiant Saint Force for not only a longer amount of time, but also a larger quantity of it as well.

This time, the wound on Jian Chen's shoulder was very serious. The intense energy that struck his shoulder had even fried some parts of his wound, so even with the Radiant Saint Force, the wound would take some time to heal.

After 4 hours, the milky white glow that surrounded Jian Chen gradually dissipated, revealing Jian Chen's body inside. His face was somewhat pale despite looking better than the condition he was in before. After using the Radiant Saint Force to heal such a wound for 4 hours, he was rather exhausted, but at the very least, he wasn't feeling extremely drowsy like he used to feel.

Using the Radiant Saint Force for 4 hours had a very mysterious effect. The wound on his shoulder had already fully healed without even a single blemish showing on his skin.

Chapter 163: Leaving The Magical Beast Mountain Range

Jian Chen slowly opened his eyes from his cross-legged meditation position. Turning his head to look at the wound that used to be there on his left shoulder, he raised a hand to gingerly touch the new skin over it. Feeling the skin without noticing any strange peculiarity with it, Jian Chen could only sigh in admiration of the effects of the Radiant Saint Force.

Jian Chen tore off his damaged clothing to reveal his blood splattered body underneath. Then, using the pieces of clothing he had ripped off, he began to wipe away the blood.

Slowly standing up, Jian Chen's eyes looked at the corpses of the two Class 5 Magical Beasts on the ground with a profound look. "Based on the appearances, this snowy white magical beast must be the Quick Cloud Beast. The books said that the body of a Quick Cloud Beast was small, but was unnaturally nimble with fur that resembled the clouds above in the sky. And this other magical beast with wings on its back, this must be the Magical Skywing Cow. The wings on its back can only be used to attack, and cannot be used to fly with." In a flash, Jian Chen had remembered the information he had seen back in Kargath Library to identify the corpses in front of him.

"The Magical Skywing Cow's monster core is hidden underneath the wings I'm sure, and the Quick Cloud Beast has its in its skull." The Light Wind Sword appeared in Jian Chen's hands before it

quickly stabbed into the body of the Quick Cloud Beast and dug around in its head.

After some effort, the monster core of the Quick Cloud Beast was extracted, causing the dog like magical beast, in the end, to resemble something grotesque.

This Quick Cloud Beast was a Class 5 Magical Beast, but because of their specie type and limited potential, their body was never able to grow past 2 meters unless they reached the Class 6 level. Because of this, even the monster core within their body was only the size of a walnut.

After extracting the Quick Cloud Beast's monster core, Jian Chen moved onto the Magical Skywing Cow and used his Light Wind Sword to stab into the area below the wings for the monster core. Then with a great amount of effort, he finally extracted the monster core from its body; in contrast to the other monster core, this one was half the size of a fist.

Jian Chen dried off the blood from both monster cores using the ripped of pieces of his shirt before revealing two sparkling pieces of crystal like items.

Feeling the amount of energy hidden away within the monster cores, Jian Chen couldn't help but feel a little fearful inside. It was no wonder there was such a difference between a Class 5 and a Class 4 Magical Beast– just looking at the monster cores anyone could clearly tell the difference. In comparison to a Class 4 Monster Core, a Class 5 Monster Core had an extreme qualitative leap that would be incredibly difficult to try to make a comparison

with.

Also, despite the 2 monster cores coming from different magical beasts, the amount of energy contained inside was hardly any different.

“With just these two Class 5 Monster Cores alone, I suspect that they will last me a very long time as I cultivate with them.” Grasping both Class 5 Monster Cores in his hand, Jian Chen couldn’t help but feel happy. In his heart, this was nothing but good fortune.

The happy mood continued for another small moment before becoming tranquil once more. Taking out his Space Belt, he placed both Class 5 Monster Cores and the corpses inside.

The carcasses of a Class 5 Monster Core was very valuable, so Jian Chen couldn’t abandon them like he did the Class 3 or Class 4 Magical Beasts. With these two carcasses alone, Jian Chen could sell them for a high price since any corpse of a Class 5 Magical Beast or higher was usually an object that had no standard price in any city. The reason was because the blood and meat of a magical beast of such a high class was good for the body when consumed. The high quality meat of a magical beast could even increase one’s strength or alter the body in a certain way.

The bigger of the two magical beasts here was the Magical Skywing Cow which was around 4 meters big. Meanwhile, the Quick Cloud Beast was only a meter wide, so Jian Chen could just barely fit them both into his Space Belt.

After storing away the two magical beasts into his Space Belt, Jian Chen took out another set of clean clothes and put it on. Although he hadn't left the Magical Beast Mountain Range in a long time, the amount of clothes he had taken from the other mercenaries wasn't lacking.

After taking care of everything, Jian Chen immediately left the area. Although the fight between two Class 5 Magical Beasts had scared away all of the surrounding Class 4 Magical Beasts, he wasn't completely sure there were not other Class 5 Magical Beasts that might have wandered closeby.

If one more Class 5 Magical Beast came, Jian Chen wouldn't be able to fight against it at all. Even with his Peak Saint Master strength, he didn't even have any confidence that he could run away from a Class 5 Magical Beast. Unless he were to come across a species that was particularly slow, otherwise he wouldn't have a chance to escape.

In a flash, another half month had gone by.

In the depths of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, Jian Chen stabbed through the heart of a cyan colored python and extracted its monster core. Then, he grabbed a handful of the grass below to wipe off the blood on it.

"This half month I've only collected ten Class 4 Monster Cores. For the sake of my cultivation, I should keep some just in case. For now, instead of trying to increase my strength, I should try to

resolve any issues within my body. Otherwise, the berserk elements within the monster cores may cause some sort of issue. In any case, I should leave this area and take a look at the situation on the outside.” Jian Chen cleaned off the rest of the blood on the fist sized Class 4 Monster Core as he finished talking.

“Besides, I’m still carrying the final wishes of Kendall. I must find his family quickly.”

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Leaving the Magical Beast Mountain Range, he traveled for another two days after passing through the forests and killing countless numbers of magical beasts and wild beasts before finally coming to a large grassland.

Jian Chen didn’t return to Wake City because Tianxiong Lie of the Tianxiong Clan possessed an Earth attribute Saint Force. With that Earth Saint Force, he held the superior defensive advantage over Jian Chen’s nimble sword play. Not only that, but Tianxiong Lie’s strength was also at the Peak Great Saint Master, so until that man was dead, Jian Chen wouldn’t want to carelessly walk back there.

Also with the Tianxiong Clan being one of the hegemonies in Wake City, they surely must have many personal connections despite their heavy losses in the Magical Beast Mountain Range. The moment Jian Chen came back, he may or may not come across another Great Saint master, or even be encircled by multiple Great Saint Masters.

Chapter 164: Group Of Prairie Wolves

At this moment, there was a flash in Jian Chen's eyes before he suddenly stopped. Right in front of him, Jian Chen could detect the movements of something going through the grass.

There was a cold glint in Jian Chen's eyes as he surveyed the patch of grass in front of him. His ears twitched as he continued to listen for the smallest sounds of movement in his surroundings.

A look of disdain adorned Jian Chen's face as he flew in the direction that the noise of the movements was coming from.

Within a few breaths, the sounds of movement could be heard even louder than before, to the point of being able to hear them even without paying attention. Plus, the shaking within the grass could be clearly seen now, almost as if the wind was blowing in a specific area. Suddenly, a countless number of shadows flew out from behind the tall grass.

Jian Chen was very calm as he walked forward. In his right hand the Light Wind Sword condensed into existence as he grabbed it.

“Hao!”

At this moment, the sound of a wolf could be heard as a blue colored figure leaped out from the grass toward Jian Chen.

Without even a sideways glance, Jian Chen shook his right arm

slightly as the blue figure flew closeby him. The Light Wind Sword in his right hand became a streak of silver light as he walked past the flying creature.

Just as the blue colored figure leaped out at him, it abruptly fell to the ground. Looking down, all Jian Chen could see was a blue colored wolf with a stream of blood leaking from its throat.

Just as this wolf fell to the ground, a barrage of wolves flew out from the tall grass at Jian Chen. One of them opened its large jaw wide, causing the irony scent of blood to waft out and attack the nose to an unbearable degree.

Still with a calm expression, Jian Chen continued to stab out with his sword at lightning quick speed as he struck each incoming wolf fatally in the throat.

These Blue Wolves were only at the Class 1 to 2 level, so Jian Chen didn't feel threatened by them at all.

From behind the cover of the tall grass, Blue Wolves continued to leap out as they charged at Jian Chen. However, Jian Chen's forward pace didn't falter even a single step as he brandished his weapon in a web of sword strokes. Each and every second his sword would swing out around him, and with each swing, another wolf was struck fatally.

The amount of Blue Wolves hidden in the grass numbered within the thousands as they formed a circle around Jian Chen that was around 100 meters in circumference. Now that Jian Chen was

firmly sealed in, the Blue Wolves could stalk quietly behind the tall grass, yet while Jian Chen could easily kill a Blue Wolf, there was only 20 of them dead by his hands.

Although he realized just how many Blue Wolves were around him, Jian Chen still didn't seem to take it seriously. Against a group of Class 1 or Class 2 Magical Beasts, Jian Chen could easily kill each of them in one strike without wasting any energy at all.

Even if a group of mercenaries were to come across this pack of Blue Wolves, they would definitely have a headache after dealing with them, even if they had a Great Saint Master with them. A class 2 Magical Beast would have an extremely difficult time hurting a Great Saint Master, but when there was a thousand of them, they wouldn't just stand around and let you kill them, they would all come in for the kill.

Within the prairie, these Blue Wolves were a very common sight, but after killing countless Blue Wolves, the Light Wind Sword in Jian Chen's hands was almost like the scythe of the god of death, mercilessly reaping the lives of the magical beasts. Without exception, each and every wolf that leaped at Jian Chen had its throat stabbed mid roar. Even in midair, they were unable to escape the rapidness that was Jian Chen's scythe like sword.

Behind Jian Chen, the massive amount of blood had already turned into a single line that splattered on top of the tall grass. As for the Blue Wolves' bodies, they were all neatly piled up on top of each other in a single line.

Despite this indiscriminate slaughter by Jian Chen, the wolves

leapt out from the tall grass one by one in an endless stream, almost as if they weren't afraid of injuries or death. In the eyes of any spectator, it was almost like Jian Chen was a hated enemy that they were ready to die for in order to kill...

The blood of the Blue Wolves continued to splatter into the air as the Light Wind Sword covered the sky with its blade, and after being mixed with blood, the shine of the sword was unmistakably distinguishable.

Jian Chen's body didn't have any unnatural movements. From the start of this massacre to now, he had calmly continued on in a single line without the Blue Wolves being able to attack him from the front or back. Yet, they were also unable to stop his forward momentum

This massacre continued for another hour, and not too long after, Jian Chen had already killed several hundred Blue Wolves without a single speck of blood landing on his body.

“Aoooo~~~”

At this moment, the fierce snarl of a wolf came from behind. It was a command for the wolves that immediately called each wolf in the front of the circle to retreat behind, leaving behind several hundred corpses without a single trace of their retreat.

The pack of wolves had come quickly, but they had also left quickly. In the blink of an eye, not a single trace could be seen of the Blue Wolves, except for the blood of the hundreds of dead that

left a single path on the ground.

Seeing how the wolves had retreated, Jian Chen took back his Light Wind Sword. Despite this extensive close ranged combat, Jian Chen's face wasn't red, and neither was he breathing hard.

“The rumors said that the magical beasts in the prairie were unnaturally vicious, it would seem that this rumor is true. Each wolf came at me with no regards for its life or any fear either.” Jian Chen thought to himself.

Even after that ordeal, Jian Chen's direction didn't change as he continued to walk down a single line. With all the corpses behind him, he didn't pay any attention to them since they were only Class 1 and Class 2 Magical Beasts. Despite the amount of bodies, a person of Jian Chen's strength didn't care for it since it wasn't worth the time spent harvesting and storing away the bodies. This was certainly not a task Jian Chen had wanted to waste time doing.

The area of this grassland was expansive, so Jian Chen could walk for 2 days before he would finally reach the end of the area which turned into a desolate piece of land. After walking for another 4 hours, he finally made his way to an official road where he could see the left over marks of a carriage that had driven by.

On the road, a small group of caravans were slowly advancing in the direction of Jian Chen.

Chapter 165: Mysterious Person

Looking at the group, Jian Chen could clearly distinguish their figures despite being thousands of meters away.

That was because the group only had 10 caravans and personnel numbering around 40 men. Each one of them was sitting on a tall horse with a rather luxurious looking caravan in the middle of the group.

With Jian Chen's regular walking pace, he had quickly met up with the group of caravans. Each one of the mercenaries sitting on top of the horses stared sharply at Jian Chen. After a few of them looked over Jian Chen's figure, they each looked away from him as if they didn't care for him.

Just as Jian Chen was about 5 meters away from the caravan group, the two sides suddenly stopped since Jian Chen's path was blocking their group from continuing forward.

At this, the mercenaries that had glanced at Jian Chen from before no longer looked friendly. A few of them had already started to have a small amount of killing intent in their eyes.

"Who are you, and why do you block our path!" An older man bellowed at Jian Chen.

Not caring for the other man's temper, Jian Chen waved his hand and said, "Fellow travelers, this one has found himself lost, so this one wonders if some questions could be asked for a

moment.”

Hearing this, many of the mercenaries furrowed their eyebrows. For mercenaries that traveled the continent, if they weren't familiar with the terrain, then many would bring a map with them. People like Jian Chen were not commonly seen, so the words spoken by Jian Chen couldn't be taken so easily.

“Less of your f*cking bull, hurry up and scram, otherwise don't blame this uncle for being impolite!” One of the more violent mercenaries snarled out. This elder man stalked forward with his muscles rippling in a way that exploded into everyone's view while also seeing the short pants he was wearing.

Jian Chen's face tilted down slightly as he looked coldly at the mercenary who spoke. “You better clean your mouth, or else you may find that all it'll take to lose your life would be one phrase.” Hearing this mercenary's words, they had clearly annoyed Jian Chen.

The words of Jian Chen said caused the color of the other mercenaries to drop a few shades. The one that had been looking at Jian Chen couldn't help but feel his heart tremble as if a sudden chill had descended over the area. At first the man had felt a bit cowardly, but the moment he had realized the one who was threatening him was only 20 years old, the cowardice within him turned to anger before a slightly low voice could be heard from behind him.

“Fellow friend, the words you say are too much.” From this voice, everyone turned to see a middle aged man riding a black

horse slowly approach them. The look on his face was a bit gloomy, but there was an icy tint to his eyes as he looked down at Jian Chen.

“Captain Lan!”

“Captain Lan!”

The moment this man emerged with his black horse, all of the surrounding mercenaries began to call out his name.

Jian Chen looked at the man and said, “Before saying something like that, you should first discipline your subordinates.”

The big mercenary snorted and glared dangerously at Jian Chen, “How arrogant, you’re nothing more than a boy who hasn’t been taught by his mommy. To dare disrespect our captain, why don’t I bring your mother here to help discipline you?” Leaping from his horse, he began to walk toward Jian Chen with his fist outstretched.

Hearing this talk about his mother, Jian Chen’s face suddenly changed as a tremendous spike of killing intent flowed from his eyes. Lifting up his left hand, he blocked the incoming slap from the older man and then immediately planted his right hand into his stomach.

“Kacha!”

Immediately the sound of bones could be heard breaking as Jian Chen's Saint Force enhanced fist struck against the man's stomach. Straight away, a dent could be seen in his chest.

“Ah!”

With a miserable howl, the man's face was completely filled with a violent expression as his tanned face grew pale.

Straight after, Jian Chen's figure disappeared in a blur as his leg planted itself against the man's chest once more with a biting cold gust of wind. The mercenary was sent flying high into the air before finally landing 10 meters away on the ground with a resounding “Bang!”. Dust was knocked up into the air as blood came spurting out of the man's mouth. His face which was already very pale had started to wither a bit.

Seeing how that older mercenary was struggling to crawl up from the ground, the other mercenaries looked on in disbelief. With a stunned look as their only reaction, they slowly started to shout and pull out their Saint Weapons to charge at Jian Chen.

“Stay your hand!” The one named Captain Lan suddenly called out from his black horse. In an instant he had instantly stopped every single mercenary from charging at Jian Chen.

Captain Lan urged his horse forward as he looked at Jian Chen with a serious face, “Honored one, do you truly just wish for directions without any other motive?”

“Correct!” Jian Chen nodded his head.

“Captain Lan, give this junior here a map.”

Just as Jian Chen finished talking, an elderly voice came from behind. While the voice was very elderly sounding, the air became rather imposing.

Hearing that elderly voice, Jian Chen’s turned his head to look behind to see a small group of luxurious caravans make their way toward him.

An expression of respect grew on Captain Lan’s face as he cupped his hands in the direction of the caravans, “Yes, elder!”

Seeing the display Captain Lan was showing, Jian Chen’s eyes flickered slightly. Looking at the caravans, he could tell that there were indeed people in the caravans, but because of the distance, he wasn’t able to gauge their exact strength.

Then, Captain Lan took out a rolled up piece of parchment from his Space Belt and threw it at Jian Chen, “This is the map of the Blue Wind Kingdom, take it.”

Jian Chen unraveled the parchment and took a brief glance on it before rolling it back together. Cupping his hands, he left the area without any further words.

Watching Jian Chen’s body grow even more distant, Captain Lan

cried out, “Forward!”.

After picking up the mercenary that had been struck down by Jian Chen and placing him on a horse, the group began to continue on with their path.

Jian Chen continued to watch the caravan fade away from the side for a while. He knew that the man leading the caravans was a Peak Great Saint Master, so to have such a man have a respectful tone, Jian Chen was truly curious about the man inside the caravans.

The only thing he could sense within the caravans was merely the breathing of a person, other than that, there was nothing.

“Haha, youngster, for a youth to possess a strength like yours, that is not an easy task. Continue to work hard, I believe that not too far in the future, you will surely shake the continent.”

When Jian Chen had passed the caravans, he could faintly hear the elderly voice whisper into his ears almost as if the elder were standing right next to him.

Jian Chen’s face had changed slightly as he suddenly went rigid. Immediately looking around himself, he didn’t see anyone around him. So he stared in disbelief at the caravan that had just passed by. He had just heard this elder’s voice from inside the caravan.

Even with the incredulous look on Jian Chen’s face, the

mercenaries that were guarding the caravans appeared to not have noticed the sound; their faces had no difference than before Jian Chen had heard the sound.

“Youngster, if you can one day make it to the Holy Empire, then you can find me using this badge.”

At that moment, the elderly voice came back once more without the same mysterious tone. At the same time as the voice, a purple shining badge flew out from the window and into the hands of Jian Chen.

The few mercenaries guarding the caravan suddenly turned to look at Jian Chen with a look of extreme envy and at the object in his hand with some doubt.

Seeing this purple medal that was shining in his hand, Jian Chen's heart began to feel as if waves were constantly crashing over him. It was at that moment that he had realized the mysterious figure sitting in this caravan was undoubtedly an unmeasurably deep expert. He hadn't expected to receive this medal, but he knew that this medal was definitely not something normal people could get.

There was a strange feeling within Jian Chen's heart. For a person to be so strong in the caravan, why was it that the strongest person in his group was only a Peak Great Saint Master? The average strength in this group was only a Great Saint, with some that weren't even at that level.

Also to have so many goods being transported in the open like this, could it be this person didn't even have a Space Belt or Space Ring?

“Keke...”

As the caravans traveled further away, the clear sounds of a cough could be heard. Jian Chen looked at the caravan with his eyes, but his heart was not as tranquil as it usually was.

“Hu...” Jian Chen let out a long breath of air as he looked at the purple medal in his hands. This medal was only the size of his hand and was a finger wide and heavy to the touch. This medal was made entirely from purple coins, so there must have been a special way to refine and create this object. And since it was made from purple coins, the price of this item would be unnaturally high.

“The Holy City in the Holy Empire, that is one of the Capital Cities in the Tian Yuan Continent. It's also where the ruler of the Holy Empire resides. Just what identity does this mysterious man have?” Jian Chen muttered.

Chapter 166: Phoenix City

After meeting the mysterious person within the caravan, Jian Chen had some doubts. Judging from how that Captain Lan had so respectfully called out to the elder in the caravan and that Jian Chen couldn't measure the elder's strength at all, the elder was definitely not a Great Saint Master. Against Great Saint Masters, Jian Chen could easily discern their cultivation levels, but when it came to this elder in particular, Jian Chen had no idea.

"It would appear that his strength is at the very least an Earth Saint Master. But for what reason did he give me this badge?" Jian Chen looked back to the purple coin casted medal in his hand. This medal didn't have any words on it, but there were various patterns running through it.

"Forget it, there isn't any use to trying to figure this out. I'd best be on the road. Until I have enough strength, it would be best for me to wait until I go to the Holy City." Jian Chen decided before storing the medal into his Space Ring and continuing on his way.

The road was unusually peaceful; there were many times where he wouldn't see anyone. Yet sometimes during the day, many caravans and mercenaries would ride by on their magical beasts.

Now that he had a map, Jian Chen was no longer worried about getting lost. In accordance to the map, Jian Chen had walked for 3 days and in the end, he finally reached Phoenix City.

Phoenix City was a Class 2 City encompassing an area of several

hundred kilometers. By the time he reached the outskirts, there was already a steady flow of people bustling around. A group of leather wearing mercenaries rode on magical beasts of many sizes while other caravans slowly carried their goods on the road. All sorts of topics were being made as voices blended together.

Jian Chen followed the road for the final stretch of land and slowly made his way past the city walls. Walking besides Jian Chen were other mercenaries that also traveled by themselves. So Jian Chen hadn't attracted any attention to himself.

By the city gates of Phoenix City, there were many guards standing perfectly straight as they watched with a cold gaze, those who entered the city.

“Stand still, what are you doing?!” At that moment, a cold voice cried out. Turning their heads to look, everyone could see a caravan group being stopped by a single city guard.

Simultaneously, a short but plump man with embroidered clothing walked forward pretending to pull the guard's hand in a friendly manner as if he was a friend. Pleasantly stuffing a few gold coins into the cold hand of the guard, the man began to smile as he spoke a few words into his ear.

The guard pinched the gold coins given to him by the man before rubbing them together with a serious face before it slowly melted away. Waving his hand with a happier expression, he cried out, “You may enter!”

Practically every merchant that was blocked by the guards would end up having to pay a small fee to enter. This was an extremely common practice on the Tian Yuan Continent, but there were a few merchants that had refused to pay this toll. Of course, the guards would use the pretense of feigning that there were dangerous goods within their caravans and would not allow them to enter before forcing a search on them.

This rudeness had made many people unsatisfied, but because these guards were still the garrisoned soldiers of the city, many people were unable to do anything about them. In the face of these guards, even some of the more violent mercenaries would only be able to suck up their anger.

Jian Chen had however been able to enter Phoenix City without paying the tax. To the guards, Jian Chen was a lone traveler that wasn't escorting any sort of goods, so they didn't care about him. It was only for the merchants that they would obstruct a person's way.

As a Class 2 City, Phoenix City was relatively huge, being bigger than Wake City by a large degree. As soon as Jian Chen had entered the city he walked to the closest stable and bought himself a nice looking horse to ride to the center of the city.

Because of the wideness of the city, if one didn't have a horse to travel on, it would take over half the day to walk from the east to west gate of Phoenix City.

After traveling on his horse for some time, he finally stopped at a bank. Tying up his horse, he entered the bank.

Inside the bank, Jian Chen converted all of the copper, silver and gold coins on him into purple coins. Only a few of the coins were left unconverted for him to use for daily expenses. Most of the money he had converted came from his time in the Magical Beast Mountain Range where Jian Chen had taken all of the money from the dead mercenaries bodies and Space Belts.

Just before Jian Chen was about to put all of the coins back into his Space Belt, he had counted how many purple coins he had. Unexpectedly, there were around 30,000 purple coins, and added with the purple coins he already had on him, then he had a total of over 40,000 purple coins.

Before he had left the bank, he had collected a purple card from the bank. This card was called the Purple Card by everyone on the Tian Yuan Continent.

Purple Cards were used by the entirety of the Tian Yuan Continent for those who wanted to save space from carrying so many purple coins. A Purple Card was like a Space Belt in that it had its own interdimensional space to hold coins, but it was used to measure the amount of purple coins. With a Purple Card, one would be able to freely visit any bank to access their money. Many higher institutes would even take the Purple Card as payment, so it was a lot more convenient than carrying around individual stacks of purple coins.

The Purple Card was only half the size of Jian Chen's hand and was created through a special means of refinement. Although the card itself looked rather weak, it was actually very strong; even

Earth Saint Masters wouldn't be able to inflict damage to this card.

Obtaining a Purple Card wasn't all that hard, but still not so easy that ordinary people could receive one. To obtain one, a person must have at least 10,000 purple coins.

With a Purple Card, not only was it a symbol of one's identity, but also of one's wealth.

For purple coins to be added into the Purple Card, it required the bank's special instrument, so ordinary men would have absolutely no way of tricking the system. However, the banks would only recognize the card and not the owner. Even if one were not the original owner, the Purple Card would still be usable by any bank in the Tian Yuan Continent.

Walking out of the bank, Jian Chen held the Purple Card in his hand. It contained all 40,000 of his purple coins with barely any other coins left for him to use for his own personal interests.

When the people in the bank had seen the Purple Card in Jian Chen's hands, they all looked at him with an envious expression with many people already looking at him with other ideas.

Jian Chen looked around himself at the people looking back at him and smiled. Placing the Purple Card in his Space Belt, Jian Chen mounted his horse and rode off.

Chapter 167: Auction Affairs

Next, after asking around, Jian Chen arrived at a store that specialized in monster cores but was rather large. The building made of a blue stone material and had 3 stories,

Although there were many mercenaries that sold monster cores, they were mainly low leveled ones. The higher leveled monster cores were less common to see, so if one really wanted to buy one, they would need to go to a store. The bigger the store, the higher quality the monster cores were.

Plus, stores that sold monster cores had a huge supply in comparison to the mercenaries that only had 3 or 5 Class 1 or 2 Monster Cores for sale. If some influential clans wanted to buy large quantities of monster cores, they would go to these stores to buy them.

Entering the monster core shop, Jian Chen felt that despite being such a large store, there weren't many people inside. There weren't even any monster cores arranged out, with only a few female clerks that were working, but other than that, this place didn't seem like a monster core shop at all.

With some confusion, Jian Chen walked toward them and asked, "Might I ask if this is where they sell monster cores?"

Hearing this, the female clerk looked at Jian Chen's handsome and delicate face with an astonished face. Seeing such a handsome face like Jian Chen's had made her stop for a second before

speaking up joyously, “Did you see the sign outside our store? If our Monster Core Heaven Store didn’t sell monster cores, then what place would this be?”

Jian Chen let out an embarrassed smile as he looked at the empty halls, “Then why is there not even a single monster core out on display?”

Perhaps it was because of Jian Chen’s appearance that made him irresistible to women, but the clerk then stared blankly at him before explaining pleasantly, “Our Monster Core Heaven Store only displays our higher level monster cores out on the second and third floor. The first floor only has Class 1 Monster Cores, but since those are extremely common, there is no need to put them out on display.”

Hearing this, Jian Chen suddenly saw the light. This was only the first story of the store, but he hadn’t realized that this was how the store functioned.

The female clerk continued to say, “Which monster core did you want to buy? If you want to buy Class 1 Monster Cores, then just tell me how many you want to buy. But if you want to buy Class 2 Monster Cores, you’ll have to head to the second floor.”

Jian Chen hesitated for a moment before asking, “I’m not here to buy monster cores, but might I ask if you are buying monster cores instead?”

The female clerk looked at Jian Chen with an astonished face,

“What? You’re selling monster cores?”

“Correct!” Jian Chen nodded.

An incredulous look filled the clerk’s eye as she stared at Jian Chen. She didn’t know why such a handsome youth was trying to sell instead of buy monster cores. She had worked at this store for many years, but this was the very first time such a person came. Usually, it was always a group of burly men.

She didn’t look at Jian Chen with disdain despite this, instead, she continued to speak with a sweet smile, “We also buy monster cores here, so if you please bring out the monster cores you want to sell!”

Jian Chen immediately took out two Space Belts and handed it over the female clerk. In these two Space Belts were Class 1 and 2 Monster Cores.

The clerk took the two Space Belts and began to inspect the amount of monster cores inside. Quickly, a look of shock appeared on her face because the amount of Class 1 and 2 Monster Cores in the Space Belts numbered to around 2000. This was the first time she had ever seen so many monster cores!

Taking in a deep breath, the female clerk looked at Jian Chen’s handsome face with a complex expression, “Please wait one moment, I will be right back with the shopkeeper.”

Handing the Space Belts back to Jian Chen, she turned around and headed toward the second floor. Not too long after she had left, a man wearing an embroidered blue robe came down with the same female worker.

“Shopkeeper Bai, this is the one that wants to sell monster cores.” The female clerk said as she brought the shopkeeper to Jian Chen.

The one named Shopkeeper Bai nodded his middle aged head as he smiled at Jian Chen, “Junior, would it be possible for you to bring out the monster cores for me to see?”

Jian Chen didn’t hesitate in bringing out the Space Belts for Shopkeeper Bai to see. Extending his hand to inspect the contents of the Space Belt, Shopkeeper Bai’s eyes suddenly widened in shock as well when he discovered the amount of monster cores within the Space Belts.

“To sell so many monster cores at once, this is something Phoenix City doesn’t see often.” The middle aged man spoke as he studied Jian Chen, “Junior, do you mind if I call you that? I hope you don’t mind.”

Jian Chen smiled, “Shopkeeper, why don’t we talk about how much money you’d like to buy this for.”

“That we can do, please allow me to think it over for a moment.” The man laughed. Without any more talk, he led Jian Chen into a secret room so they could go over the monster cores.

Once the monster cores were all counted for, the middle aged man had given Jian Chen a total of 5000 purple coins. Taking the purple coins, Jian Chen thanked the shopkeeper and walked out of the building.

Riding his horse to a crowded marketplace, he began to buy several sets of clothing and other essential items for surviving in the outside world.

Just then, the loud clamoring of the crowd caught Jian Chen's attention.

"I've heard that the annual auction will be taking place in 10 days time. This time there'll be many precious treasures..."

"Yea, this auction is a must this year, who knows what treasures will be seen there..."

"Phoenix City's Heavenly Phoenix Auction is very famous. The annual auction usually always has many people from other cities participating, so it'll definitely be crowded..."

.....

"An auction!" Jian Chen cried out to himself as he listened to the others talk. Now thinking about this, he no longer was in any desire to stroll around the area and immediately went back onto the road to return to the center of Phoenix City to find the place

everyone was talking about.

The building was exceptionally tall, despite being only two stories tall, it had already reached several dozen meters higher into the air than a four story inn nearby. Even the area it had covered was large as compared to the Mercenary Union which was roughly the same size. On top of the great big gates to the auction house was a three meter tall board that had the four words “Heavenly Phoenix Auction House” written in fancy calligraphy.

There were many people coming in and out of the auction house as well. With a little hesitation, Jian Chen disembarked from his horse to enter the inn nearby the auction house to rent a room. After that he let the horse go.

After a few days, Jian Chen strolled around before finding an isolated area. Where he took out some herbs from his Space Belt.

After the time it took to boil a cup of tea, Jian Chen stood back up with a completely different look. This time he looked more like a dark skinned middle aged man with relatively ordinary looks. If he were to blend into a crowd, no one would be able to remember his face other than the fact that there was a little scar on the left side of his face.

After disguising himself, Jian Chen swapped out his clothes and then headed toward the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House and then inside of it. After entering, he saw a steady stream of people walking in and out around him. By this time, the annual auction was about to start, so many people were already trying to register their own precious items for the auction.

“Sir, might I ask what item did you want to register?”

Just as Jian Chen had entered the auction house, a female worker had called out to him sweetly.

“Could you please bring out the official for this place, I have a few things to discuss with him.” A deep voice came from Jian Chen’s throat, he had even changed what he sounded like.

“Yes, please wait for a moment!” The female worker studied Jian Chen before excusing herself from the area to walk further into the auction house.

In a flash, a white haired man wearing rich looking clothes walk toward Jian Chen with the female worker right behind with a respectful face. “Elder Huang, this is the person looking for you!” The female spoke up before turning to Jian Chen, “Sir, this is our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House’ high leveled appraiser, Elder Huang.”

Jian Chen cupped his hands together as a greeting.

His greeting was completely ignored by the elder who instead looked at him and asked, “What business might you have?”

Jian Chen’s eyes swept around himself to look at the nearby people in the auction house before replying, “Elder Huang, I have a few precious things that I would like to sell, would elder like to talk

about them?”

Hearing the words of Jian Chen, the elder's eyes flashed before gesturing Jian Chen toward a secured room to talk.

Jian Chen and the elder sat down on the opposite sides of a table. Although the room wasn't all that big, the soundproofing was very good in here, so their negotiation could be done freely without the worry of anyone from the outside listening in.

“Sir, you should have brought the item you wanted to auction off to Elder Xiu.” When the two sat down, the elder couldn't help but say that.

“Haha, Elder Huang, I wanted to auction something, but it must remain confidential.” Jian Chen laughed before taking his Space Belt out.

“Then you can rest easily, our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House is well respected among all cities and will not divulge even the smallest bit of information to anyone.” The elder smiled before inspecting the Space Belt given to him.

The moment the elder looked inside the Space Belt, his eyes suddenly froze along with his face as he looked at the contents with shock and disbelief. “This...this is...this is the body of a Class 5 Magical Beast!”

Chapter 168: Yullian

Seeing the shocked expression on the elder's face, Jian Chen smiled gently and said, "Indeed, Elder Huang has a good eye."

The unexpected sight of a Class 5 Magical Beast's body had given the elder's heart a great big shock. But soon enough, he quickly brought his emotions under control. Taking a deep breath to calm himself, he looked back at Jian Chen with a completely different attitude.

"Dear sir, do you really wish to auction off this Class 5 Magical Beast body?" The elder's eyes contained hope in them as he waited for Jian Chen's response. A Class 5 Magical Beast's body was especially precious as well as being especially hard to supply. In the history of the Class 2 Phoenix City, there were only 2 or 3 occurrences of a Class 5 Magical Beast body being sold in the last dozen years. Although, each time it occurred, it had sent shockwaves to the nearby cities where all of the influential clans in the vicinity would begin to fight over it.

If these two bodies were to be auctioned off in his Heavenly Phoenix Auction House, his auction house would definitely earn a supremely high reputation. If that happened, then their auction house becoming the number one auction house in this area of the empire would not be too far off as a dream.

Seeing the nervous look on the elder's face, Jian Chen couldn't help but smile, "Correct, these two Class 5 Magical Beasts, I've come here to auction them, will there be a problem with that?"

The elder's face lit up as he hurriedly responded to Jian Chen, "No no, not at all. You may auction these bodies within our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House, in fact, we would be honored to do so. However, dear sir, these two Class 5 Magical Beast bodies are very important and have far surpassed my authorization. Please wait a moment, and I will bring the manager of the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House to come and discuss this matter with you."

With that, the elder gave a polite salute to Jian Chen and left the room, causing it to become quiet once more leaving Jian Chen as the sole person inside.

Casually leaning back on his chair, Jian Chen tilted his head down as he began to think. Right now his mind was constantly thinking about just what type of trouble he could come across as a result of this.

The body of a Class 5 Magical Beast was very precious. Within the Class 2 Phoenix City, this could be said to be extremely rare. Jian Chen himself knew that if he were to auction these 2 bodies, it would undoubtedly send shockwaves throughout this area. Thus trouble would undoubtedly come to him.

"Kacha!"

Suddenly a sound could be heard as the door to the room was opened. Jian Chen tilted his head to look only to see a cyan colored robe wearing woman slowly walk in with refined steps. The moment she had walked in, a sweet fragrance had immediately wafted into the room.

This woman was rather tall and looked to be around 30 years old. Her entire figure seemed to carry the unique temperament of a female with a beautiful face that held no argument. To some ordinary men, they would most likely not be able to resist her charm. Right behind her her dark green colored hair hung without any binding against her shoulders and back. Her black pupils seemed to shine with a mysterious light that seemed as if it could read a person's mind.

Right behind this woman was the Elder Huang who had previously left the room, closing the door behind them.

As Jian Chen studied the woman, the woman studied Jian Chen as she elegantly sat down opposite of Jian Chen. Her twin black eyes stared deeply at Jian Chen as if trying to understand him before she smiled and said, "I am called Yullian, the one in charge of the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House. Might this one know what to call you by?"

Jian Chen cupped his hands in greeting, "This one is called Wu Yun, miss Yullian."

Yullian nodded her head and gave a small look at the nearby Elder Huang. "So you are called Wu Yun. I've just heard from Elder Huang that you wanted to sell two bodies of Class 5 Magical Beasts. Is this the case?" Yullian's beautiful eyes then swung toward Jian Chen to study his face for an answer.

"Correct, that is the case!" Jian Chen placed the Space Belt with

the two Class 5 Magical Beasts on top of the table. Continuing to speak, he said, “Miss Yullian, they are right here, so examine them if you will.”

“En!” Yullian grabbed the Space Belt to begin inspecting the contents, but the moment she saw the corpses of the magical beasts inside, her face had a look of extreme shock.

“These are indeed Class 5 Magical Beasts. And if I’m not wrong, then this is the Magical Skywing Cow and the Quick Cloud Beast.” Yullian commented.

Jian Chen nodded his head, “Miss Yullian, if I leave these two Class 5 Magical Beasts within the care of the auction house, will there be any problems?”

Hearing that, Yullian began to laugh gently as she placed the Space Belt back on the table. Her twin black pupils looked as if they could absorb the soul of any mortal and had some sort of lovely charm to it as she stared at Jian Chen. “Of course there won’t be a problem. For sir to auction these two magical beasts within our auction house, this is simply too rare of an event. This would surely be a good thing for our auction house, so I can exempt sir from the service fee for this. In the case that the auction house successfully sells the magical beasts, then sir will receive a hundred percent of the profits, and our auction house will not receive any of it.”

Jian Chen didn’t care at all for the service fee, but he cupped his hands in respect nonetheless.

“Of course, if sir were to bring out the Class 5 Monster Cores with the magical beasts, then our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House can openly proclaim this and definitely bring in a higher price. Why don’t you think this over for a moment.” Yullian continued to say.

Jian Chen’s face had a bitter smile as he said, “Miss Yullian, I am truly regretful but those two Class 5 Magical Beasts were found by me on the Magical Beast Mountain Range. By the time I discovered their bodies, their monster cores were already gone, so thus I only have the bodies and not the cores.”

“Oh! So that’s the case?” Yullian didn’t believe Jian Chen, but nevertheless smiled at him.

Seeing this, Jian Chen’s expression sunk as he spoke with a slightly unsatisfied face, “Miss Yullian, I’ve already said it, but it’s up to you to believe it.”

Seeing the slightly angry look on Jian Chen’s face, Yullian had an apologetic look on her face and said, “Sir Wu Yun, please do not take offense. This little girl was only asking, without any other purpose, please do not misunderstand.”

Quickly taking out a piece of paper, she said, “Sir Wu Yun, please sign your name here and give us the two Class 5 Magical Beasts so that the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House can auction them. Does sir have any further questions?”

“I am already familiar with the rules of the auction house. Good.

Then these two magical beasts will be temporarily given to you. If there are any problems that arise from this, then your auction house will take the blame.”

“Sir Wu Yun, please rest assured. Our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House must maintain our reputation. In the case a problem or loss happens, our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House will take responsibility.”

Chapter 169: Eliminating Danger

After that, Jian Chen and the manager of the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House, Yullian, went over a few things for the process of the auction house. After all that was done, Jian Chen left the Class 5 Magical Beasts with the auction house and left.

Once Jian Chen had left the secret room, all that remained was the appraiser Elder Huang and the manager Yullian.

Closing the door to the room, Elder Huang returned to where he was just sitting and sat down once again. Staring at the Space Belt in Yullian's hands, he finally said to her, "Little Yullian, do you think the Class 5 Monster Cores could be in Wu Yun's hands?"

Yullian carefully caressed the Space Belt with the two Class 5 Magical Beasts with her jade like fingers. Despite there being blood within it, she did not feel unwell or even loathe it even with her feminine personality.

"There's a good chance of that. Judging from these wounds, the magical beasts must have killed each other and had one person clean up at the end and extract the monster cores. So this person must not be all that strong and is vastly inferior to these two Class 5 Magical Beasts otherwise he would have easily killed these two magical beasts without having so many messy wounds." Yullian murmured.

"Yet, we cannot rule out the fact that he did not extract the Class 5 Monster Cores. The one called Wu Yun indeed came across the

corpses, but the probability that he doesn't have the monster cores is low. Only those at the Earth or Heaven Saint Master level would not care for a Class 5 Magical Beast's body, but the monster cores were clearly not removed by such an expert."

Hearing this, Elder Huang nodded his head and said, "When you say it like that, then the two Class 5 Monster Cores are really on Wu Yun's body."

"Yes, that is the most likely situation." Yullian nodded her head slowly. "Forget it, whether or not the Class 5 Monster Cores are with Wu Yun are not of our concern. We just need to do what we are supposed to do as an auction house. Although a Class 5 Monster Core is very expensive, compared to our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House's reputation, it is a negligible cost."

"Alright, Elder Huang, let's forget about the Class 5 Monster Core and do what is expected of us with peace of mind. To our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House, this accidental discovery of the Class 5 Magical Beasts was an extremely rare occasion in the first place. That's why we must properly utilize this hard-to-come-by opportunity and increase our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House's renown even more."

"Yes, I understand." Elder Huang responded.

"Furthermore, we must keep this matter with Wu Yun being the owner of the Class 5 Magical Beast a secret. We must not allow any news of this to be leaked out; otherwise, it would not benefit our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House at all. It would also have a huge impact on the reputation of our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House."

You can understand this much, right?” Yullian spoke gently, but the words she spoke contained a hint of iron to them, almost as if she was speaking like a commander.

“Yes, this elder understands.” Elder Huang answered immediately.

.....

After leaving the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House, Jian Chen walked into the crowded streets down a certain road. In the end he had finally reached a small isolated alleyway. Seeing the rows of locked up homes that were uninhabited, Jian Chen hesitated for a moment before taking out his Light Wind Sword to cut down the chains and walking inside a room.

The inside of the room was pitch black so visibility was very poor. Yet Jian Chen could make out the simple layout of the furniture and a table that had a very visible layer of dust on top of it, indicating that no one had lived in this home for a very long time.

Jian Chen looked around himself before immediately taking out a few things from his Space Belt to clear away the disguise on his face. Swapping out his old clothes for a new set of clothes and then changing his hair style, he destroyed any last trace and walked out of the wooden house into the alley.

By the time Jian Chen had come into the line of sight of anyone else, he already had his original appearance. Even his attitude had

made a change from his previous disguise. At this moment, even if Elder Huang or Yullian were to look at Jian Chen, they would not be able to find a connection between Jian Chen and Wu Yun because the differences between the two were far too many.

First buying a detailed map of Phoenix City, Jian Chen had decided to walk toward the bustling Heavenly Phoenix Auction House and stroll around.

While Class 5 Magical Beasts may be a common sight in the more major cities, in a city like Phoenix City, this was an undeniable precious treasure. Jian Chen knew that selling a Class 5 Magical Beast would not be as easy as it should be, so he had to familiarize himself with the environment. In the case that something unexpected happened, he would at least have an escape route and wouldn't be flustered.

For the entire afternoon, Jian Chen wandered around the area and traveled down every road and alleyway. It was only when it was night time that Jian Chen returned to the inn.

After eating a simple meal, Jian Chen sat down on his bed in a cross-legged position and closed his eyes.

But Jian Chen wasn't cultivating this time. Perhaps it was because he had gone up in strength far too fast, or maybe it was because he had used the monster cores to cultivate too much. With his strength being at the Peak Saint Master level, he was no longer able to use his strength as efficiently as he used to. With this, he wasn't able to utilize his fighting strength to his full potential or even as smoothly before. It wasn't an extremely serious problem,

but then, Jian Chen knew that if he didn't resolve this problem soon, then it would definitely have a long lasting effect on him.

So in this moment, Jian Chen was not cultivating in fear of increasing his strength too fast. If he abused his cultivation speed, his control over his Saint Force would be too troublesome.

So, before any defects formed in his cultivation, it would be best to resolve any dangers before such a thing could happen.

Chapter 170: The Sensation Caused By The Class 5 Magical Beast (One)

For the entire night Jian Chen sat on his bed, and refined the Saint Force within his body endlessly, to ensure that he would be able to use it efficiently.

He didn't dare to continue cultivating, in fear that the danger hidden in his body would become more predominant.

The Saint Force within Jian Chen's body flowed around his meridians in a fixed pattern nonstop. As it flowed within his body, he could feel the control over his body constantly increasing. At the same time, the level of compatibility between his Saint Force and his body slowly increased.

He also realized that while circulating his Saint Force, his blood was also doing the same. A few of the strange genetic factors in his blood began to accumulate and enter the various organs of his body.

Those genetic factors were the anti venom genes from the Silver Striped Golden Snake. Although the anti venom genes had fully integrated into his bloodstream earlier in the year, the blood was only starting to alter his organs. It would take a long time until the process was completed.

Right now, the amount of antivenom filled blood had only changed a small part of his body. Previously, the Thousand Immunity had only succeeded in a small amount by having his

blood reproduce the antivenom. It would only be when his entire body was altered, and had the antivenom that the Thousand Immunity would truly be completed.

The night went by peacefully until morning came. When the sun rose, the Saint Force that Jian Chen had been circulating the whole night gathered continuously back into his dantian, finally forming the shape of a sword. Although the shape was still a bit blurry, it was still more distinct than it had been when Jian Chen broke through to the Saint Master level.

Jian Chen left his room and went down to the tavern where he ordered a single dish of magical beast meat for breakfast. With his current strength, even if he went a day without eating, he wouldn't feel hungry at all. Although, having 3 square meals a day had already become a habit to Jian Chen, and he would always eat regularly unless there were some extraordinary circumstances. Other than that, he refused to not eat a meal, after all, eating a fine meal was one of life's simple but great pleasures.

Since it was prime time to eat breakfast, the tavern had quickly filled up its tables. Many of the mercenaries were forming groups to sit together. They exchanged information of what they've heard and seen, filling the room with their clamor.

Jian Chen sat by himself with a few other dishes on the table and enjoyed his meal while listening in on the other mercenaries.

"Hey fellow brothers. Today the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House will start. Rumors say they will be auctioning off a Class 5 Magical Beast corpse." A blue robed mercenary said.

“What?! A Class 5 Magical Beast!? Oh heavens, that’s a beast that requires an Earth Saint Master to defeat at the very least. How does the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House have one of those? Fellow, are you sure you’re not tricking me?” A person cried out in disbelief.

The first one who spoke had a smile full of conviction, “Fellow brothers, why don’t we make a bet on it then. If the words I say are fake then I will be the loser, but if my words end up to be true, then I win, how about it?”

“Do you expect me to believe a Class 5 Magical Beast could possibly show up in a Class 2 city like Phoenix City? Fine. I’ll call your bet,”? Another person called out.

“I’ve lived for 30 years and heard news of Class 5 Magical Beasts many times, yet I have never seen a Class 5 Magical Beast with my own eyes. Okay, I’ll bet as well. Two gold coins. In the case that the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House really is selling a Class 5 Magical Beast, then consider it my loss of these two gold coins.” A person at the table called out.

The amount of chatter at the table was growing as it quickly attracted the attention of the nearby diners. Immediately a few other men walked on over to the table and greeted them respectfully, “Fellow brothers, you’ve just said that the Heavenly Auction House is auctioning off a Class 5 Magical Beast. Is this piece of information verified?”

Hearing this, the youth that first mentioned the news laughed, “Brother, it seems no one believes this information. Then why doesn’t everyone bet on it, is this not interesting enough for you?”

The person who had approached them hesitated before nodding, “Fine, then I shall bet five gold coins. If there really is a Class 5 Magical Beast being sold at the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House, then these five gold coins are yours without any hard feelings.”

“Ok, I’ll also place a bet. I’ve been here in Phoenix City for 20 years already, but I’ve never seen a Class 5 Magical Beast appear in an auction. Actually, I’ve never even seen one before, so I don’t even know what one would look like.”

“Class 5 Magical Beasts normally appear in King Cities. They rarely even show up in Class 1 cities. The information about a Class 5 Magical Beast showing up in a Class 2 city like Phoenix City is most likely false. Forget it, since everyone is so into it, I might as well bet. This news is definitely false.”

“I’ll add a bet as well. I say that the Class 5 Magical Beast could appear in some Class 1 city auction. That would at least be possible. However, appearing in a Class 2 city is clearly impossible.”

.....

The discussion at the table quickly attracted the interest of everyone eating in the restaurant. They had all been lured by the topic of a Class 5 Magical Beast, and were all silently gambling with themselves about whether or not it was true.

Jian Chen, who was slowly enjoying his food, smiled bitterly and shook his head at the actions of the people in the restaurant. At the moment, he was currently wondering whether bringing the two Class 5 Magical Beasts to a Class 2 City like Phoenix City to auction them off was a wise choice.

However, Jian Chen understood very well that if he brought the Class 5 Magical Beast to a Class 1 City or the capital to auction off, he'd admittedly sell it for a high price. The problem was that the pressure he'd have to face would unfortunately be greater since the stronger experts were pretty much all gathered at these flourishing and fertile places. If someone from that type of place came looking to stir up trouble with him, he'd have a much harder time dealing with them. However, being in a second class city like Phoenix City was a completely different story. In Phoenix City, Earth Saint Masters were extremely uncommon. Even if an Earth Saint Master class expert did approach him looking for trouble, it was likely that Jian Chen would be able to cope. It was unlikely that the opposite party would be able to pressure him to the point where he wouldn't be able to resist.

It was precisely due to this reason that Jian Chen had decided to auction off the Class 5 Magical Beasts at Phoenix City.

Just as the people in the restaurant were discussing the news about the Class 5 Magical Beast in a frenzy, the loud banging of a gong suddenly rang out from outside.

“Dong! Dong! Major news, major news! The annual large-scale auction at the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House after the 9th will

be selling off two Class 5 Magical Beasts...”

This information made both the people on the street, as well as the originally incomparably lively restaurant dumbstruck. Everything went dead silent and everyone had expressions of disbelief on their faces.

Class 5 Magical Beasts were really going to be sold in the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House. Moreover, there wouldn't be just one available, but two.

Chapter 171: The Sensation Caused By The Class 5 Magical Beast (Two)

The difference between a Class 4 and Class 5 Magical Beast was only one level, but there was a huge distinction between the two. Class 4 Magical Beasts weren't anything special on the Tian Yuan Continent, but a Class 5 Magical Beast was very precious. This was because a Class 5 Magical Beast was a great deal stronger than a Class 4 Magical Beast, which made them that much harder to capture or kill.

Class 5 Magical Beasts were gifted with a certain level of intelligence. The fifth stage Magical Beasts were born with an advantage, in that their strength would be greater than their human counterparts of the same level. Thus under an situation of a one on one, it would be very difficult for a human expert to kill a Class 5 Magical Beast. In addition to that,, Class 5 Magical Beasts had an established hidden rule; if they fought and killed among themselves, other Class 5 Magical Beasts wouldn't interfere. However, once a human expert disturbed them, they would call upon each other, and unify together to retaliate against the threat. That was why the body of a Class 5 Magical Beast was so rare.

Jian Chen felt that the beating of the gong outside on the streets was unexpected. Although he knew that the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House would announce the Class 5 Magical Beasts, he didn't think that they would announce it in such a manner.

The sounds of the gong being beaten and firecrackers going off filled the streets. The declaration of the annual Heavenly Phoenix Auction House was officialized. With this declaration outside, in

less than half a day, the entire Phoenix City would know about the Class 5 Magical Beasts being sold at the auction.

A Class 5 Magical Beast being sold in a Class 2 City was a rare event that shocked many people. Something like this was an unprecedented event for the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House, and it could be said that they were sparing no expenses. Not only did the entire Phoenix City know about the Class 5 Magical Beast, but even the cities that were in the vicinity of Phoenix City knew.

Some time later, the news that the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House would be auctioning a Class 5 Magical Beast had spread to 500 kilometers away. Soon enough, every influential power had heard about the Class 5 Magical Beasts and set off for Phoenix City.

At the center of Phoenix City, there was a quiet mansion that towered over the others. By the gates of the mansion, 10 armored guards stood perfectly still like statues. On top of the gates was a board with the three words, "City Lord's Mansion." Those golden words gave anyone reading it a feeling of power.

This mansion was truly the mansion of the lord of Phoenix City.

Within the beautiful garden behind the mansion, a white robed, middle aged man was practicing his martial arts with a giant blade. His movements were quick and fluid as he moved around the flower garden. His blade danced around and left shadow trails as each swing filled the air. With how fast the blade was traveling, it was almost impossible to catch the blade's exact position as a large amount of Saint Force filled the air as well.

A moment later, an elderly housekeeper walked forward and watched the man in the rose garden practice his martial arts, “My lord, some news just came in. There will be two Class 5 Magical Beasts auctioned off at the annual Heavenly Phoenix Auction House.”

“What!? A Class 5 Magical Beast!” The blade in the middle aged man’s hands suddenly stopped as he turned around to look at the housekeeper with a stunned expression, “Housekeeper Cheng, what did you just say?”

The housekeeper repeated his words, causing the middle aged man’s face to grow more and more shocked. With an expression full of disbelief, he asked with some doubt, “Housekeeper Cheng, the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House is truly selling a Class 5 Magical Beast?”

“My lord, that was the news given by the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House themselves.” Elder Xiu himself confirmed it as well, so this was absolutely true.

“For the past dozen years, I’ve only seen Class 5 Magical Beast in Phoenix City thrice. So hearing that a Class 5 Magical Beast is being sold in the auction is a first in many years.” The middle aged man furrowed his eyebrows in thought before asking, “Housekeeper Cheng, do you know who was responsible for these two Class 5 Magical Beasts? To have such precious cargo come into our Phoenix City is quite strange.”

“Elder Xiu does not know!”

This answer was already anticipated by the middle aged man, and his face revealed no surprise. Tilting his head for a moment, he said, “Housekeeper Cheng, go to the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House and invite Boss Zhou Tian to the mansion.”

“Yes, my lord.”

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In the residence of another place in Phoenix City, an elderly man with a scholarly air sat in his study reading a few books. At that moment, a knock was heard from the door.

The man furrowed his eyebrows and said with some dissatisfaction, “Who is it? Did I not say that I am not to be disturbed while in the study?”

“Father, it is your son with a report.”

“Come in then!”

The door opened, revealing a black robed, middle aged man who strolled in. “Father, some news just came in. A Class 5 Magical Beast will be auctioned off later at the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House.”

“What! A Class 5 Magical Beast?!” The elderly man was shocked. Immediately putting down the book in his hand, he turned away from his table to look at his son, “Jian Er, is that true?!”

“Your son personally went to the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House to confirm it; this is undeniably true.” The middle aged man nodded his head with certainty.

“A Class 5 Magical Beast is extremely uncommon in a Class 2 City. The Heavenly Phoenix Auction House, just where and how did they get a Class 5 Magical Beast?” The elder murmured. There was a flash in his eyes as he looked at the middle aged man, “Jian Er, do you know if the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House is selling the Class 5 Monster Core, a Class 5 Magical Beast cub, or the body of a Class 5 Magical Beast?”

“Your son does not know. The Heavenly Phoenix Auction House would not divulge that information. Only a few figures know that answer, and your son was unable to find out.”

“Find it out immediately!” The elder said.

“Yes!”

.....

The news of the Class 5 Magical Beast had not only interested the people in Phoenix City, but the influential people of power in the area as well.

For the next few days, a countless stream of people came into Phoenix City from every direction. Even more waiters and workers for the inns and restaurants hurried around as the buildings filled up completely. Along with the amount of guests, the prices of the inns rapidly soared to ten times the usual price. At the same time, the security of the city was intensified as groups of soldiers could be seen patrolling around every area.

Every so often, Jian Chen would observe the situation by the sidelines. The other few moments were spent cultivating. He was still hard at work trying to refine his Saint Force completely. Despite the price of the room going up by ten times the original price, it was not an issue for Jian Chen.

Chapter 172: The Start Of The Auction

By this point, Phoenix City was a city full of the rich and the poor mixed together because of the news of the Class 5 Beast. It had not only attracted the influential people from the city, but the outside powers as well.

At the same time, the area around the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House had become strange. Almost every day, various dressed up people would linger around the auction house, and there would always be a pair of eyes closely watching people enter and exit the auction house.

Although the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House had tried to keep the matter of what exactly was being sold a secret, it was like trying to contain a fire with paper. After every influential power had looked into the matter, most of the details about the two Class 5 Magical Beasts and their origins had been found out by the day before the auction.

There were two Class 5 Magical Beasts bodies without their monster cores and a mysterious man that had to be an Earth Saint Master at the very least.

This was all the information that every influential power could find out.

Although this was something outside of their expectations, it didn't weaken their excitement over the Class 5 Magical Beasts.

In a restaurant in Phoenix City, a few middle aged men sat gathered together in a somewhat cramped room.

“Keep looking! I order everyone to look into this! We must find out who is responsible for these two Class 5 Magical Beasts! The Class 5 Monster Cores are definitely with him! Tomorrow when the auction starts, that man will definitely show up, so have someone look at anyone that enters the auction house closely!” A white robed, middle aged man commanded.

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In a luxurious manor in Phoenix City, a dignified person looked down over the other middle aged men and elders sitting at the table. “Right now, the news of the Class 5 Magical Beast has already been confirmed. Although they’re only the bodies without the monster cores, their prices will still be very high. It is said that eating the meat of a Class 5 Magical Beast is said to increase one’s strength majorly. Even the blood of a Class 5 Magical Beast can strengthen the inner organs, something like that could even benefit an Earth Saint Master. So, we definitely need to purchase those two Class 5 Magical Beasts at all costs, and even if we can’t get both of them, then we need to get at least one.”

“Also, the two Class 5 Monster Cores should still be on that person. Class 5 Monster Cores are even more precious than the bodies, and are very hard to come across in Phoenix City. Our Huangpu Clan must obtain them at all costs. Tomorrow, you all will bring some men over and find out who is auctioning off the magical beasts.”

“My lord, although the reports said that the person who got the Class 5 Magical Beasts wasn’t a strong individual, the fact that he was able to obtain them in the first place is proof that this situation isn’t as simple as we thought. I am guessing that there is a high level expert supporting him.” Another white haired elder said respectfully.

“Not possible!” The standing middle aged man said. “The news we received was very clear-cut. These two Class 5 Magical Beasts died from battling each other before being collected. Judging from the man-made injuries inflicted onto the two when the monster cores were extracted, then that person isn’t strong at all, so everyone’s concerns aren’t necessary.”

“The lord is truly wise, this old man was completely muddled.” The elder cupped his hands together in respect, and sat back down.

“Okay, time is cutting short. Next up, I would like to talk about tomorrow’s rearrangements.”

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In the pitch-dark night, the Phoenix City was fairly quiet. There was only a single group of guards patrolling the streets. Now that all sorts of influential powers were gathered, the city was a mixture of the strong and the weak, so the lord of the city had no choice but to have some guards patrol the city at night just to keep the peace.

Hushed discussions and commands could be heard from all over

Phoenix City. All of them were related to the Class 5 Magical Beasts and the mysterious person putting them up for auction.

The night quickly passed. Dawn broke the dark skies from the horizon, marking the opening day of the Heavenly Phoenix Auction, who had long since opened their gates. The giant gates had been decorated with ribbons and lanterns as both people and workers streamed in and out of the building. In the distance, quite a few dressed-up people stood there, waiting for the auction house to open.

Today was the day of the annual auction at the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House. In the past, this had always been the busiest day for the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House, but today, they had the rare Class 5 Magical Beasts for sale. This, this year was even livelier than the years before. Before the day had been blessed by sunshine, there were already many people waiting by the gates.

After dawn, the sun rose into the air and emitted a red glow that bathed the lands in its warm light. More and more people began to gather at the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House and filled up the nearby streets. Caravans found it extremely difficult to get by or find parking.

Many people had been waiting for at least 2 hours before the ear-splitting sounds of a gong and firecrackers could be heard. This year's annual auction had finally begun!

The auction this year wasn't like the past auctions. In the past, every person would have to buy an admission fee to participate, and this year was no exception in that regard. However, because of

the Class 5 Magical Beasts, the admission fee this year was even more expensive than usual. Last year, the fee had been 5 gold coins, but this year, it was 10 times more expensive; the price was now 50 gold coins.

Although this hike in prices made many people unhappy, it did not deter the people with money in their pockets. At the same time, it had gotten rid of the people who were merely there to watch the show and not buy anything. In this way, there was enough room for all the powers that were extremely interested in the Class 5 Magical Beasts

After the gates opened up for the auction house, the people that already had tickets and had been waiting outside for a very long time began to enter through the entrance in a straight line.

Jian Chen had already returned to the disguise of a middle aged man that he had wore when he had first entered the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House. Slipping into the crowd, he slowly began to walk into the auction house.

As he reached the inner halls of the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House, a large expansive area greeted his eyes. The space was filled with neat rows of seats for as far as the eye could see. It was clear that the number of seats had surpassed 1000.

Chapter 173: The Auctioning Of The Class 5 Magical Beast

The area had two stories worth of seats, and the two stories combined had a total of over 10,000 seats. Installed on the sides of every seat were dozens of private rooms for the honored guests, each separated by a tinted glass wall. From the inside they could still clearly see the outside, but no one on the outside could see what was happening on the inside.

In the front was a two meter tall stand where the items would be auctioned. At the moment, there was a huge piece of cloth covering the majority of the stands, making everyone unable to see what was hidden underneath.

Finding a relatively isolated seat, Jian Chen calmly sat down and waited for the auction to start. People all around him were slowly starting to settle down as well.

After some time, the auction hall had been completely filled up, with every last empty spot being crowded with people standing close together.

Just as the final seats were taken and everyone had settled down, a golden eruption of fireworks exploded overhead. The concealed stand up in front slowly started to ascend into the air as the red cloth on it began to rise, the mysterious items concealed were slowly revealed to the entire audience.

Standing on top of the stand was an elderly man around 60 years and in front of him was a red colored wooden table.

The elder's eyes swept the audience as he cleared his throat and loudly announced, "Honored guests, I thank you all for participating in our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House's annual auction. I, Xiu Gerong, will be the host for this year's auction, and so I hope everyone today will be able to see an item they will want to buy!"

The elder paused for a moment to clear his throat once more before continuing to speak, "This year the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House has seen its busiest year. That is because this year, this year we shall be auctioning off two precious items that our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House has already announced. What these items are, I am sure many people here are already aware of. So I, Elder Xiu will not waste any more time describing them."

"Good, then I declare that the auction is now officially starting..."

"I didn't think that the host of the auction this year would have the strength of a Saint Master." Jian Chen muttered to himself. When the elder was speaking, he had used his Saint Force to magnify his voice so that everyone in the auction hall would be able to hear it.

At the sound of the elder's words, ten men suddenly walked toward the stand, encircling it. Their eyes stared coldly at the

audience, as if showing off their positions as bodyguards.

Afterward, a young, elegant woman slowly walked into view from behind the stand. A tray covered by a red cloth was lifted high into the air by her hand, as she skillfully walked toward the host. Carefully, she set down the tray on the table in front of the host.

“Honored guests, we shall now auction away the first item. What this hidden item is, I shall reveal it to you all.” With that, the host extended his arm to grab the cloth and abruptly tore it away to reveal a palm sized jade bottle.

“The very first item is the Miraculous Hundred Herbs Pill. For the honored guests who are unfamiliar with this item, it is a hard to come by medicine that has the healing effect of a hundred herbs. In a time of crisis, this medicine can be an additional safeguard!”

“This bottle has 5 pills of the Miraculous Hundred Herb Pill and has a starting price of 10 purple coins! Every new call will add an additional purple coin minimum, you may begin bidding!”

“11 purple coins!”

“12 purple coins!”

“13 purple coins!”

“15 purple coins!”

.....

Just as the host finished speaking, the people in the audience immediately started to fight over the Miraculous Hundred Herb Pill. This medicine had a very strong healing effect that could heal not only physical wounds, but internal injuries as well. Once this pill was eaten, the wounds would quickly stabilize themselves. Although the healing effect was still vastly inferior compared to when a Radiant Saint Master healed someone, this item was still readily welcomed by everyone. Radiant Saint Masters were a rare breed in the Tian Yuan Continent, and with such a majestic identity, only a few influential clans would be able to have a Radiant Saint Master render their services to them. Thus, herb based medicines were well received within the Tian Yuan Continent. The higher effect they had on healing, the more expensive they became.

As Jian Chen sat and watched the people around him fight for the medicine, there was a faint smile on his face. Although the Miraculous Hundred Herb Pill had a strong healing effect, he could control the Radiant Saint Force just like a Radiant Saint Master, so this medicine was completely useless to him.

After a fierce battle, the bottle of Miraculous Hundred Herb Pill was sold to the highest bidder for a price of 28 purple coins.

People began to fight over item after item, especially for the ones that were rare and very hard to come by. Among all of these items, not a single one of them were of interest to Jian Chen.

Quickly, noon came to the auction house as the auction house workers passed lunch to all of the participating guests. Although the auction itself did not cease and items continued to be sold.

One by one, precious but strange treasures were sold off to the highest bidders, and soon, the auction was already reaching the ending point.

“Honored Guests, the next item will be one of the last two items for this year, and is also one of the items everyone is most interested in.” The host suddenly stopped speaking as his eyes swept over the audience. Almost as if everyone was one huge collective consciousness, the whole audience concentrated on the stand up front.

The host began to smile, “It can be said that these items are what everyone has been anticipating for a very long time. With that then, I, Elder Xiu, will not speak anymore. Come, bring the item up!”

Just as he finished speaking, a few lumber workers came up onto the stall with a stretcher. As soon as they appeared, everyone in the audience zoomed in on the stretcher.

There was a huge black cloth covering the stretcher, making it so that no one could see what was underneath it. However, there was a huge protrusion underneath the cloth that allowed many people to guess just what was being hidden.

The men slowly lowered the stretcher onto the table and left the

stand. Strolling toward the table, the host stooped over and placed a hand on the black cloth.

Chapter 174: Fierce Battle

Thus, everyone in the auction hall had their eyes glued to the black cloth covered thing. While this was only one Class 5 Magical Beast body, it had still attracted the interest of many people. In their hearts they had thought that in their entire lives, this may be the only time they would be able to see a Class 5 Magical Beast.

After all, Class 5 Magical Beasts weren't like Earth Saint Masters. In a few of the bustling cities, many of the bigger sects had a few Earth Saint Master experts. Class 5 Magical Beasts were also very different from humans, they would usually stick to their own areas instead of strolling out and about. Although, whenever they did come across any humans, those humans would surely die. So Class 5 Magical Beasts were beings that many weaker humans wouldn't want to be stuck with.

As the host slowly took the black cloth away, the hidden object underneath was finally revealed to the eagerly anticipating crowd.

Underneath was only the pitch black colored body of a cow-like magical beast. A few of the closer and more observant guests could clearly see the small black wings on the back of the magical beast.

This magical beast was just quietly lying on the stretcher, completely still. Its body was about 4-5m long, and it looked like a small hill.

“Don't tell me that this is the Class 5 Magical Beast....”

“Class 5 Magical Beasts actually look like this? It doesn’t feel very different from some Class 1 or 2 Magical Beasts....”

“Today is the day that I finally got to see a Class 5 Magical Beast. My trip was not in vain after all. These 50 gold coins weren’t wasted....”

“It really is a Class 5 Magical Beast’s carcass. It seems like a Magical Skywing Cow...”

.....

After the Class 5 Magical Beast was revealed, the originally quiet auction house instantly buzzed to life. Everyone’s gazes gathered on the Class 5 Magical Beast’s body lying on the stage. The sounds of intense discussion and gasps of amazement overlapped ceaselessly. Among the people present, quite a few had lived for dozens of years, yet had never seen a Class 5 Magical Beast before now. Even though it was only a carcass, they already felt extremely fulfilled.

“Cough, cough!”

Suddenly, the sound of coughing spread throughout the entire auction house. With this noise, the loud and chaotic auction house gradually calmed down.

The host standing on the stage smiled as he looked at the hundreds of thousands of people attending the auction and loudly

declared, “Ladies and gentlemen, this magical beast carcass in front of me is the Class 5 Magical Beast Magical Skywing Cow. Although it has already lost its monster core, it is still an expensive treasure. I’m sure that everyone sitting here knows that eating a Class 5 Magical Beast’s meat for a long period of time will not only strengthen your body, but will also slightly improve your inner Saint Force. In addition, it is said that there is a chance that one can break through from the Great Saint Master level to the Earth Saint Master level.”

After hearing the host’s last sentence, the originally calm auction house once again burst into a clamor. Everyone was staring intently at the Class 5 Magical Beast on the stage, filled with feelings of desire and greed.

In the Tian Yuan Continent, such rumors did indeed state that consuming Class 5 Magical Beast meat over a long period of time would increase the chances of a Great Saint Master becoming an Earth Saint Master.

Although an Earth Saint Master didn’t seem to be much in name, it was actually an eminent and unapproachable existence to the thousands upon thousands of Great Saint Masters on the Tian Yuan Continent.

The Earth Saint Master was only a single step away from the Great Saint Master, but this seemingly small gap blocked millions of people from progressing. There were many people on the Tian Yuan Continent who had lost their lives in attempt to break through and become an Earth Saint Master.

This was because the requirement to advance was to smash one's own Saint Weapon into dust, and then rely on the ability to absorb large amounts of energy to refine each piece of the broken Saint Weapon over from the beginning, and finally recombine it. Only after completing this step could one successfully become an Earth Saint Master.

However, Saint Weapons represented their owners. Once the Saint Weapon was damaged, the owner would also become injured through their link, and if a Saint Weapon was shattered, there would only be two results. The less severe result would be the user losing all of their Saint Force, and becoming a useless person that wasn't able to cultivate. The more severe result was directly sending their life to the underworld.

For these reasons, less than 1% of the people on Tian Yuan Continent could successfully become Earth Saint Masters. If one failed, those that hadn't degenerated to becoming useless had died.

This step alone blocked millions of Great Saint Masters, to the point where many of them that weren't willing to take the risk would eternally be stuck at their current realm until they died.

This was why this Class 5 Magical Beast meat that could increase the chances of breaking through to Earth Saint Master by eating it made all of the people present beyond excited.

At that moment, the host's voice resonated through the air once more, "Right now, the carcass of the Class 5 Magical Beast Magical Skywing Cow will be auctioned. The starting bid is 5000 purple coins. Every time a new bet is proposed, it must be at least 100

purple coins higher than the previous bid.”

“I bid 6000 purple coins...”

As soon as the host finished his declaration, a bid was immediately heard from one of the VIP rooms.

“6500 purple coins...” A voice from another VIP room declared.

“6600 purple coins...”

“6700 purple coins...”

“7000 purple coins....”

One after another, frighteningly high bids rang out from the VIP rooms in the auction house. Currently, none of the people sitting in the general area of the auction house could interject.

If one wanted to purchase the Class 5 Magical Beast, they not only had to have enough money, they also had to have a certain amount of strength. Otherwise, as soon as they left the auction house, the Class 5 Magical Beast would get stolen from them.

That’s why the people fighting over the Class 5 Magical Beast right now had to have reached a certain level of power, and were not at all concerned about it being stolen from them.

“8000 purple coins...”

The fight over the Class 5 Magical Beast was extremely intense. In just the blink of an eye, the price had already risen to the astronomical value of 8000 purple coins. Moreover, it was still rising, without showing any signs of stopping.

“8500 purple coins. This Class 5 Magical Beast carcass will be our Youlan clan’s. If anyone dares to fight us for it, they’ll make the entire Youlan clan their enemy.” A deep voice echoed from one of the VIP rooms. Its tone was extremely arrogant, and it was evident that the person was determined to win.

“Youlan clan, as in Fire Cloud City’s Youlan clan?”

“It’s actually the Youlan clan. They’re Fire Cloud City’s number one clan and are extremely powerful. Even the Fire Cloud City’s lord is extremely courteous to the Youlan clan. I didn’t think that they’d come to attend this event.”

Hearing the words “Youlan clan”, the auction house immediately buzzed with conversation. Although the Youlan clan was not a power from Phoenix City, their strength was great enough that they had quite a bit of influence in nearby areas as well.

“Haha, Youlan clan’s people, you can’t say that. This place is an auction house. No matter what, it will go to the highest bidder. Our Harido clan will bid 10,000 purple coins. This Class 5 Magical Beast will be ours for sure.” A slightly aged voice rang out from the opposite VIP room in response to the Youlan clan member.

“Isn’t the Harido clan a power from Loess City? That’s at least 1000 miles away from Phoenix City. Who would’ve thought they’d come here as well?”

“The Harido clan is extremely low-profile. Although they aren’t even ranked top 10 in Loess City, no other power dares to offend them. Even the largest clan in Loess City, the Bai clan, doesn’t dare to look down on the Harido clan.”

“Yea, I remember a few years back, one of the rich, spoiled sons of the Bai clan offended the young princess of the Harido clan, and the boy was painfully beaten by the princess’ bodyguards. After that, the Bai clan didn’t dare to even fart in the Harido clans’ presence.”

“It’s said that the Harido clan is actually the strongest clan in Loess City. However, because they’re extremely low-key, they normally don’t show themselves, to the point where some people have never even heard of them...”

After the Harido clan had spoken, the only sounds heard were of a few people discussing among themselves. For a while, nobody else bid. Even the previously determined Youlan clan had suddenly fallen mute in a period of hesitation.

“Loess City, Harido clan!” Jian Chen’s heart raced as he mentally took note of this clan. Based on the scene unfolding in front of him, he could already see that the Harido clan was quite skilled.

After a moment of silence, an extremely energetic, middle aged man finally said from within another box, “Haha, I didn’t think that even the Harido clan would be so interested in this Class 5 Magical Beast. In that case, our Mutian clan won’t enter this fight over this magical beast. I hope that the Harido clan will yield the next one to us.”

“Haha, of course. Our Harido clan only needs one of them. We won’t participate in the battle over the next one.” The slightly aged voice from the Harido clan could be heard once more, this time with a hint of a smile in his tone.

“In that case, our Liuyun Jiange will also give the Harido clan some face, and give up on this Class 5 Magical Beast.”

“Our Yang Sect will also give up on it....”

.....

After Harido clan’s declaration, powers that weren’t at all weak began to give up on the fight over the Class 5 Magical Beast one after another, giving the Harido clan some face.

“Hehe, Elder Harido gives thanks to everyone.” An elder from the Harido clan laughed gently.

After that, the body of the Magical Skywing Cow was given to the Harido clan for the successful bid of 10,000 purple coins.

“We shall now proceed to auction the second Class 5 Magical

Beast. Bring it up!” The host cried out as another group of people carried another stretcher with cloth.

This time, the host didn’t waste any time and immediately tore off the black cloth, “This magical beast is yet another Class 5 Magical Beast; the Quick Cloud Beast. At the same time this is also the last item we shall be auctioning off, and the rules for this item will remain the same. The starting price is at 5,000 purple coins, with each minimal bid being 100 purple coins more.

As soon as the host finished talking, a frightening amount of prices started to be called out from the audience. Perhaps it was because this was the last Class 5 Magical Beast, everyone started to battle it out even more intensely than before. Quickly, the original price of 5,000 had reached up to triple its amount.

“16,000 purple coins...”

“17,000 purple coins...”

“20,000 purple coins.....”

In the time it took to boil a cup of tea, the price of the Quick Cloud Beast had reached a price of 20,000.

Hearing the endlessly increasing price of purple coins, the seated Jian Chen couldn’t help but let out a smile. Although the first Class 5 Magical beast had sold for 10,000 purple coins; which was a bit on the low side, this second Class 5 Magical Beast had completely

made up for the first loss.

“The Mutian clan bids 22,000 purple coins...”

“The Youlan clan bids 23,000 purple coins...”

“The Jialuo clan bids 24,000 purple coins...”

“The Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion bids 25,000 purple coins...”

“The Yang Sect bids 26,000 purple coins...”

“The Black Cloud School bids 27,000 purple coins...”

The prices continued to increase as many sides continued to fight bitterly over this Class 5 Magical Beast with each increasing price of 1000 purple coins.

Quickly, the Class 5 Magical Beast had surpassed the 40,000 purple coin mark.

“The Youlan clan bids 45,000 purple coins.”

Immediately the Youlan clan offered the high price of 45,000 purple coins. Instantly, the entire auction house grew still only to have a few people gasp in surprise. 45,000 purple coins was already far past something any major clan could afford.

A class 5 Magical Beast was rarely seen, but those in the bigger cities would be able to see it more often. Even this price was far more than the usual selling price, after all, a Quick Cloud Beast was only a normal Class 5 Magical Beast and not one like the Silver Striped Golden Snake.

Before the auction house could resume its price war, another voice called out, “The Mutian clan bids 46,000 purple coins.”

The Mutian clan had one upped the pressure on the Youlan clan.

“Bang!” A sound came from the Mutian clan’s box. Then suddenly, another voice came out from the Youlan clan box.

There was a total of 5 middle aged men and an elder sitting in the Youlan clan VIP box. One of the middle aged men dressed in a white robe heavily slammed his fist on the wooden table in front of him, creating an indent in it.

“Mutian clan, you dare to make life difficult for us, the Youlan clan? Fine, we’ll make you regret it.” The white robed middle aged man said through clenched teeth, a dark expression on his face.

The other people had unsightly expressions on their faces.

“If we continue fighting like this, I’m afraid that the Class 5 Magical Beast’s price will clamber up to a point that even we cannot reach.” The elder said with a downcast expression.

“What other choice do we have? This Class 5 Magical Beast has attracted quite a few people. Now, all the powers still fighting over it aren’t any weaker than our Youlan clan.” The white robed middle-aged man said in exasperation.

“The Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion bids 47,000 purple coins.....”

At this moment, another voice declared a price. Seeing the price climb higher and higher, the expressions of the few people from the Youlan clan became more and more unsightly.

The middle aged man’s eyes flashed fiercely, and he shouted, “Youlan clan bids 50,000 purple coins.”

Chapter 175: Battle Of Tigers And Dragons

“50,000 purple coins, this Youlan clan is definitely the number one clan in Fire Cloud City, their financial strength is so sturdy...”

“The Youlan clan really does have a lot of money, to shell out 50,000 purple coins for a Class 5 Magical Beast despite the price far surpassing the standard price for one.”

.....

As the Youlan clan gave another bid, the entire auction house suddenly descended into a buzz of chatter. Even Jian Chen had an unexpected look on his face. Indeed, a Class 5 Magical Beast was a precious treasure, but even it had a maximum price. 50,000 purple coins was already a number that was far beyond the limit.

From the Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion box, a few white robed men had stony looks on their faces as they sat down. There was a total of 8 men; aside from a handsome 20 year old and a petite flower like woman, everyone else were in their middle ages.

That 20 year old delicate woman said, “This Youlan clan is really determined to win this Class 5 Magical Beast. With the price this high, if we continue to fight for it, then our Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion will end up paying most of our treasury for this Class 5 Magical Beast.” Her voice was like the song of a spiritual bird, as it was very pleasant to listen to.

“I’ve heard that the lord of the the Youlan clan is preparing to

tackle the Earth Saint Master threshold, if he has the support of the Class 5 Magical Beast, then despite it not giving him a definite success rate, it will at the very least improve his chances by a lot. To them, this Class 5 Magical Beast is surely important.” A middle aged man replied.

“My master has already been at the Peak of the Great Saint Master level for tens of years now. Since he isn’t able to cross the threshold and make the breakthrough into the Earth Saint Master level, he can only linger about in his original realm of power. If we can obtain the Class 5 Magical Beast, then my master will surely be able to make the breakthrough. In the case that my master does indeed become an Earth Saint Master, then our Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion will surely grow stronger in power.” The 20 year old youth said, at the mention of his master, there was a hint of pride on his face.

That was because his master was the lord of the Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion.

Another white robed middle aged man said, “What you said is correct, we too want to win over this Class 5 Magical Beast. While it would be easier to obtain a Class 5 Magical Beast in a King City, the nearest King City to our location is too far away for us to make the trip undisturbed. Even if we were to obtain a Class 5 Magical Beast there, transporting it out of the King City would be a challenge of its own. That would be no good, we would be attacked there for it. The best choice for us is to get the one right in front of us.”

With that said, another middle aged man spoke with a grim face,

“Vice Pavilion lord, do you think we should continue bidding for this then?”

The man hesitated as he listened to the man before nodding his head, “The Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion bids 55,000 purple coins.

With that said, everyone in the auction hall gasped.

Suddenly, another voice cried out with angry over the gasps of the audience.

“The Youlan clan bids 60,000 purple coins.....”

Hearing the newest price, a few of the men within the Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion had ugly expressions on their faces.

“65,000 purple coins...” In the short moment of silence, the Vice Pavilion Lord spoke out a higher price.

By now, many of the influential powers had already long since pulled out of this struggle for the Class 5 Magical Beast. There was only the Youlan clan and the Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion left to fight for it.

“Bang!”

From the Youlan clan’s box, the sounds of a fist slamming into a

table could be heard as the Youlan clan was infuriated by the other side's actions.

Just as quickly as the sound came, the auction hall grew silent as everyone looked toward the Youlan clan box.

“Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion, this Class 5 Magical Beast is needed by our Youlan clan. Would it be too much to ask for you to hand it over? After this, the Youlan clan will offer our thanks.” An elderly voice came from the box. There was an undeniably angry voice that couldn't be hidden at all.

“My apologies, but our Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion is also in need of this Class 5 Magical Beast. If you can increase the price beyond our amount, then we will give it up.”

An elderly voice came from the Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion box. The voice wasn't hard to hear, so everyone knew it was the vice leader of the Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion.

“Good...Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion, our Youlan clan will remember this. 70,000 purple coins...” The Youlan clan elder gnashed his teeth as he called out a price.

This time, the Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion didn't call out a price. After waiting for a few more seconds, the host on the stand finally spoke out.

“This Class 5 Quick Cloud Beast has been offered to the Youlan

clan for 70,000 purple coins, does anyone wish to bid even higher...?”

The entire 10,000 people in the audience all were quiet. After waiting a few more moments, the host didn't hear any more prices, so he said, “Going once for 70,000 purple coins to the Youlan clan...”

Inside the Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion.

“Vice Pavilion Lord, the Youlan clan has a considerable amount of power within Fire Cloud City, but our Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion isn't any weaker than they are. We shouldn't give up on this Class 5 Magical Beast. Phoenix City isn't too far away from our Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion, and even with us requiring plenty of security to transport it back, this is a hard to come by opportunity.” A middle aged man said.

“Ai...” Hearing this, the vice leader let out a breath of air, “We aren't afraid of the Youlan clan, but this Class 5 Magical Beast has already far surpassed what price we could manage to support. Our Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion isn't as rich as the Youlan clan. And even if we were to buy the Class 5 Magical Beast, then our Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion would be in dire straits financially, which would not be favorable to us.”

“Could it be with such a good opportunity, we are giving it up?” A youth lamented.

“There's no other choice than to renounce it. Even if we obtain

the Class 5 Magical Beast, it does not mean the Pavilion Lord would be able to make the breakthrough. In the case that he fails, then our Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion would suffer tremendous damages that we can't afford to lose." The vice leader said.

Hearing this, everyone could only nod their heads in silence. Making a breakthrough from a Great Saint Master to an Earth Saint Master was indescribably hard. Even with the help of Class 5 Magical Beast meat, the success rate was not a hundred percent. In the case that it failed, the person would become nothing more than a cripple who would be better off dead.

"Going twice to the Youlan clan for 70,000 purple coins, are there any more takers...?"

"Going thrice to the Youlan clan for-"

"One moment..."

Chapter 176: Gray Robed Man

“I bid 100,000 purple coins.”

A deep sounding voice suddenly called out from the middle of the auction hall. Although the voice wasn't that loud, everyone in the auction hall clearly heard it.

Hearing the price of 100,000 purple coins, everyone in the auction hall became stunned. Not just them, but even the Youlan clan members inside their box had looks of disbelief on their faces.

100,000 purple coins...

The Class 5 Magical Beast was a treasure, but they weren't so precious to be priceless. 70,000 purple coins was already considered expensive for a Class 5 Magical Beast, but 100,000 purple coins was extremely past what the proper price should be.

The entire auction hall grew extremely quiet as the price of 100,000 purple coins were called out. In this silence, if a silver needle were to be dropped, then its echoes would be heard by everyone clearly.

Jian Chen who was sitting down in a corner was startled at the price, but he was also very happy. Since he was the seller, he had naturally wanted his items to sell for as high as possible. For the price to shoot straight to 100,000 purple coins from 70,000, Jian Chen had not expected that. What surprised him even more was that the person who had just called out the newest price was sitting

in a private box not too far away from him.

Jian Chen slowly turned his head toward the source of the sound only to see a gray robed man. He was an elderly man who looked to be around his 60s. His black hair grew around his head like a flower which accented his wrinkled face.

The entire auction hall was still quiet for a few more seconds before instantly exploding into chatter. Everyone couldn't help but look at the person who called out the price, but only a handful of people knew where that person was in the audience.

Even the host had been startled by this huge price and had to take a moment to regain himself. His face shook along with his voice as he said, "100,000 purple coins. 100,000 purple coins, someone has offered 100,000 purple coins, does anyone wish to beat that price?"

Within the Youlan clan box, a few of the members had ashen faces. Not a single one of them said a word as they were too shocked at the high price.

"100,000 purple coins, going once. Are there any higher bids?"

"100,000 purple coins going twice...."

"100,000 purple coins going thrice....sold."

The auctioneer fiercely swung down his wooden mallet. The second Class 5 Magical Beast, the Quick Cloud Beast, was finally

bought for 100,000 purple coins.

“Alright, this auction will now officially come to a close. Thank you everyone for attending. A year from today, we will meet together again. I’d like to now invite the guests that purchased items to come to backstage and retrieve them.” The auctioneer Ge Rong gave a brilliant smile. He had already directed the auctions at Heavenly Phoenix Auction House for dozens of years, but this was the the grandest one he had ever conducted. After all, an item worth 100,000 purple coins had been sold by him. This was definitely a supreme honor for an auctioneer.

After the auction ended, the people that had purchased items left their seats and began to head toward the backstage to exchange the appropriate amount of money for their items.

Jian Chen hesitated for a bit, then stood up as well, and began to walk toward the backstage. The money he gained from auctioning off the two Class 5 Magical Beasts also had to be retrieved from back there.

By the time Jian Chen arrived behind the stage, the place was already filled with people. This was where everyone picked up the things they had purchased.

Hundreds of people were alertly and quietly lined up, their hands holding a small card that the auction house had specially issued.

“Honored Wu Yun, Manager Yullian is awaiting for you in the guest room, please follow me.”

At that moment, an elder voice rang out from Jian Chen's side. It was the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House's appraiser, Elder Huang Lao.

Jian Chen's appearance was still that of the middle-aged male, so Elder Huang recognized him immediately.

"Mn! Then I'll have to ask Elder Huang to lead the way." Jian Chen politely replied with a smile.

Elder Huang didn't waste any time speaking, and immediately turned around to walk inside. Jian Chen followed closely behind.

Before Jian Chen had gotten very far, he suddenly stopped walking and turned around to look back at the door he had just come through.

Two people wearing gray robes were strolling over from that door, side by side. One of them was an elder, the other a middle aged man. The elder was the one that had offered 100,000 purple coins to purchase the Class 5 Magical Beast, the Quick Cloud Beast.

"Esteemed guests, please come with me!" A staff member welcomed them as soon as the two men appeared.

"Lead the way." The elder said indifferently. Afterward, they followed behind the staff member toward the staircase to the second floor.

“Freeze!” A loud shout suddenly rang out. A few middle aged men aggressively rushed over from the door, surrounding the gray-robed men.

This scene attracted the attentions of all the people engaging in item transactions. They all turned around to closely watch the scene unfolding, as if they were engrossed in watching some play.

The staff member’s expression didn’t waver. He had witnessed this type of scene multiple times. In a reconciling tone, he said, “Honored guests, this is Heavenly Phoenix Auction H–”

“Get out of the way!”

Before the staff member had even finished speaking, he was fiercely pushed back by one of the men, his arm so forceful that it directly sent the staff member flying back 10 meters, before crashing hard into the wall with a “Bang!” The staff member’s head collided into the hard wall, causing him to directly lose consciousness. The wall also now sported traces of fresh blood.

Jian Chen’s expression shifted at this scene, and a hint of a powerful murderous aura flashed from his eyes. He really couldn’t bear to watch these people’s barbaric and unreasonable actions. However, he didn’t blindly rush into the fight, since he knew that going in now wouldn’t be favorable to him. There were surely many people that had heard the news about the Class 5 Monster Cores.

Seeing the staff member's removal from the stage, the two gray robed men furrowed their brows. Without letting them say anything, the middle aged man that had pushed the staff member pointed his sharp gaze at the elder and asked, "Are you the one that bought the Class 5 Magical Beast for 100,000 purple coins?"

Chapter 177: Earth Saint Master

Hearing the middle aged man, everyone's heart jumped for a brief second. Staring slack jawed at the gray robed man, none of them had thought that the person who had spent 100,000 purple coins on a simple Class 5 Magical Beast would be this ordinary looking elder in front of them.

The gray robed man laughed, "Correct, I am indeed the buyer." With a tone of indifference.

Hearing this, the middle aged man who spoke earlier and a happy look on his face. Staring him down to measure the elder's strength, he said, "Good, good. To go against my Youlan clan! But what an impatient movement you've made. Be smart and hand over the Class 5 Magical Beast, otherwise, you won't be at ease."

"So these people are a part of the Youlan clan, to think that they are that arrogant to bring people into the auction house do however they please." Seeing how rampant these Youlan clan members were, Jian Chen furrowed his eyebrows together in thought.

The gray robed elder and the man next to him looked at each other with a small trace of a smile. Then, the elder's indifferent face gradually grew colder before turning to the middle aged man in front of him, "The Youlan clan isn't anything in my eyes, scram!"

"Are you looking for death?! Seeing how difficult you're being,

you're an old fool for not obeying!"

The Youlan clan member grew furious as he flew toward the elderly man with his arm outstretched.

The moment the middle aged man reached out with his hand, his eyes widened abruptly as he felt the palm of the elder's hands wrap around his neck. With no idea of when the elder had even reached him, he felt his throat tighten, causing him to choke.

The middle aged man's eyes turned wide as he looked down in disbelief at the hand holding him. There was shock as he hadn't noticed at all when the man had grabbed him by the throat.

The elder continued to squeeze the man's neck with a small sneer on his face as he spoke, "Youngster, you are too rash in things, if you end up losing your life, do not blame anyone else."

With that said, the elder swung his arm, and the heavy body of the man was suddenly flung to the far side as if he was no heavier than a chick. Slamming into a wall, the amount of force put into the throw caused the wall to shake.

With this sudden and unexpected development, the other Youlan members were stunned. Seeing their member suddenly flung against the wall, a few of them had grown white in the face. Taking out their Saint Weapons, they all charged with some hesitation at the elder.

“Hmph, you overestimate yourselves!” The gray robed elder snorted with a cold gleam in his eyes. A bright red glow appeared within his right hand as the temperature in the room suddenly increased.

With the middle aged men coming at him, the fiery glow in his hand suddenly scattered in every direction as if a shooting star with sparks was flying out from his palm and struck every single Saint Weapon aimed at him.

“Ding ding ding ding...”

Just as the sparks and Saint Weapons collided, a crisp sound was heard as the Saint Weapons from the Youlan clan side suddenly snapped in two.

“Pft!” The men suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood as if they had just been struck heavily. Taking a few steps back, their faces had instantly grew white without a single trace of blood. While a small amount of them were standing unsteadily, a moment later they immediately fell to the floor without getting back up.

Seeing these people have their Saint Weapons broken, the onlookers had a look of joy on their faces. In their hearts, they all understood that these incomparably arrogant Youlan clan members were utterly finished. Even if they somehow survived, they would fall to the lowest dregs of people on the Tian Yuan Continent: cripples. However, all of the people there were even more amazed at the overwhelming strength of this elder.

With the snap of a finger, he had broken the Saint Weapons of these strong men. With such a strong attack, just what level of strength had he achieved?

“Little master, for these types of people, handing them over to Elder Xiu will be enough. There is no need to get involved personally.” A dim glow returned to the elder’s eyes as he turned toward the middle-aged man to his side with a respectful tone.

The middle aged man simply let his arms fall back down as he walked over to the unconscious men and spoke indifferently, “I cannot stand these people. This will be their punishment to see if they can survive this. Let’s see how they will fare with their luck. For the tiny Youlan clan to be crazy to this extent, hmph!” Saying this, he squatted down to where the worker who was first knocked down to look at his wounds.

“These are only some small superficial wounds, nothing serious.” After a basic look over, the middle-aged man let out a breath in relief as he took out a ring hidden within his sleeves and placed it on his finger.

Bringing out some medicine from his Space Ring, he began to dab it onto the back of the man’s head.

Seeing the middle-aged man’s current action, the gray-robed elder could only shake his head. This young master of his was ruthless to his enemies, but honest and kind to any other regular person. This type of attitude wasn’t something he saw often enough.

“For the Youlan clan to do something like this, they are looking for disaster.” Elder Huang sighed before turning back to Jian Chen, “Honored Wu Yun, please follow me.”

Jian Chen nodded his head as he looked at the two grey robed men before following Elder Huang out of the area. In his heart, he was not as calm as he was on the outside.

“I didn’t think these two men would unexpectedly be such profound experts. If my estimations aren’t off, then even that other middle aged man was also an Earth Saint Master.”

Jian Chen followed behind Elder Huang through to the second floor of the auction house before entering a more elegant looking room.

After entering the guest room, Jian Chen saw the manager of the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House, Yullian who was sitting calmly by one of the tables; it looked as if she had been sitting there for some time already.

“Honored Wu Yun, after being gone for so long, you’ve finally returned.” Yullian had a gentle smile on her face.

Jian Chen returned the laugh with no other word and sat down on the sofa in front of Yullian. Elder Huang who had led him to the room didn’t enter it, and instead closed the door and left.

Chapter 178: Incoming Trouble

Seeing the mature charm of Yullian, Jian Chen still maintained a calm and tranquil feeling in his heart. “Manager Yullian, now that the Class 5 Magical Beast has been sold, will the money be handed over to me?”

Yullian laughed gently, “Honored Wu Yun, please wait for a moment. While the Class 5 Magical Beast was indeed sold, the actual transaction will still need some time.”

Nodding his head, Jian Chen didn’t say anything else and sat down to wait. He knew that the auction had only just finished; they would need to conduct the transactions between the bidder for each item. So he had to wait for the transactions to be finished before he could collect the money from the auction house.

Seeing how absent minded Jian Chen was, Yullian furrowed her eyebrows. With her mature appearance and beautiful appeal, she had a look of dissatisfaction. After hesitating for a brief moment, she spoke softly, “Honored Wu Yun, what part of the continent did you come from?”

Hearing this, Jian Chen laughed, “This one was born in a faraway and isolated village with no name. Even if this one were to say the name of the village, Manager Yullian won’t know, so it’s better to not say.”

After that, Yullian continued to try and engage Jian Chen in conversation by asking questions about himself in order to try and

establish some sort of information on him.

However, Jian Chen wasn't an inexperienced youngster anymore. Although Yullian had skillfully used her expertise with words to try and trap Jian Chen into letting some personal information slip out. Every answer she received was not up to her satisfaction. Every single time Jian Chen had answered her, the information she had wanted to hear had never appeared, whatever piece of information that seemed promising was actually useless.

“It seems this Wu Yun is not a simple person. Trying to find the information I want from his mouth is a difficult task.” Yullian felt a headache as she thought to herself.

Seeing Yullian have a small amount of anger appear on her face, Jian Chen laughed to himself secretly.

“Thump thump thump...” At that moment, a series of knocks could be heard.

Hearing this sound, Yullian straightened in her seat, and reached out to press an inconspicuous button on the sofa. The drawing room door silently opened. Outside it stood a charming-looking, 20 year old girl wearing a uniform.

“Manager Yullian , Elder Huang wanted me to give this Space Belt to you.” The servant said to Yullian in a low voice.

“Hand it over.”

“Yes ma’am!”

The servant entered the drawing room and handed Yullian the Space Belt. Her gaze lingered on Jian Chen’s face for a bit before she retreated back out of the room.

Yullian inspected the items contained in the Space Belt, then gently placed it down on the table as she smiled, “Mister Wu Yun, the total amount of 110,000 purple coins that you earned from selling the Class 5 Magical Beasts is all in there. You can check yourself.”

Jian Chen took the Space Belt and inspected its contents. Eleven neat piles of glittering purple coins could be seen inside the Space Belt. With each pile containing exactly 10,000, eleven piles gave an exact total of 110,000 purple coins.

Having obtained his money, Jian Chen had no intention to stay any longer. He stood up from the sofa and gestured politely at Yullian, “Manager Yullian, if there is nothing else, then I will bid farewell.” With this, he turned around and began to head toward the door.

“Mister Wu Yun, please wait for a bit.” Yullian suddenly called out to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen stopped in his tracks and turned around to look at Yullian. “Manager Yullian, could it be that you have something more to tell me?” He asked flatly.

Yullian hesitated for a bit before saying, “Mister Wu Yun, if you have a Class 5 Monster Core, then our Heavenly Phoenix Auction House is willing to purchase it for any price you want. In addition, we can also keep it a secret. There’s no harm in considering this offer.”

Jian Chen smiled apologetically, “I’m really sorry, Manager Yullian. I do not possess a Class 5 Monster Core.” Without waiting for her to reply, Jian Chen opened the door and left.

Watching Jian Chen disappear from her sight, Yullian sighed and said, “I was originally just trying to give you a warning. Since you’re in such a hurry to leave, I can’t be bothered to say it anymore. The major powers that came this time are rather complicated; whether or not you can survive this crisis will depend on your strength.”

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After he left the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House, Jian Chen stood there in front of the entrance and scanned his surroundings. As expected, there were many traces of suspicious people surrounding him.

Jian Chen didn’t pause for long, and began to walk at a normal pace toward a crowded street. However, before he could get very far, his expression suddenly changed. Using his powerful spirit’s acute perceptive abilities, he could clearly sense hundreds of gazes coming from all directions at him.

Jian Chen's heart sank as he realized that he was at a slight disadvantage, "Could it be that those powers have already figured out that I was the one that auctioned off the two Class 5 Magical Beasts? Or maybe the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House revealed my identity."

Although he realized that the situation wasn't really in his favor, Jian Chen's expression remained calm. He maintained his normal pace, as if there was absolutely nothing wrong with the situation, and continued to head toward the bustling street.

As Jian Chen left the auction house, some of the people spread around the area began to leave their positions and follow closely behind Jian Chen.

Sensing the movements of the people behind him, Jian Chen couldn't help but sneer. The hot blood that had been silent within him for so long began to boil once more. Ever since he had reached the Peak Saint Master level, Jian Chen hadn't once fought against a person. He really wanted to experiment and see how many of his attacks a Great Saint Master would be able to endure now that he was a Peak Saint Master.

"Sire, please stop!"

At that moment, a few middle aged men wearing black suddenly blocked Jian Chen's path.

Jian Chen stopped in his tracks and indifferently looked at the

middle aged men, “Gentlemen, do you have any business with me?”

One of the men smiled and said, “We are members of Phoenix City’s Heiming clan. Sire, our Heiming clan has no ill intentions toward you; we would only like to invite you to become our Heiming clan’s guest.”

“Heiming clan!” Hearing this, Jian Chen’s heart skipped a beat. During his past few days at Phoenix City, he had definitely heard of this clan before. They were a power native to Phoenix City, and were strong enough to be one of the three great clans here.

“I thank Heiming clan for their invitation, but I still have things I must do, so I really cannot become your guest.” Jian Chen tactfully refused.

The clansmen’s expressions didn’t change at this response. The one that had first spoken continued, “Mister Wu Yun, there are quite a few powers that know you now. Your current circumstances are extremely bleak. We, the Heiming clan, are the only ones that can save you. Please consider our offer.”

Chapter 179: Caught In A Siege

There was a look of joy on the man's eye as he heard Jian Chen's response. This phrase was something he had long since been expecting to hear. He had wanted Jian Chen to obediently follow them back to the Heiming clan, but this desire wasn't shown on his face, "Come with us back to the Heiming clan immediately, otherwise, when all of the experts arrive by nightfall, even the Heiming clan will be powerless to help you."

A nearly undetectable glint of ridicule flashed through Jian Chen's eyes as he replied, "Could it be that if I were to come back with you to the Heiming clan, then the Heming clan would definitely save me? Did you not just say that there were many influential powers after me. Could it be that the Heiming clan is able to withstand the assault of attacks from every direction?"

The man laughed confidently, "Of course, while I admit that the powers after you are indeed strong and can almost compete on the same level as our Heiming clan, but don't you forget that our Heiming clan is strong enough to be the local power of Phoenix City. Also, the Heiming clan has secretly joined with a few other clans, so if you agree to cooperate with us, then you will be safe from the other powers."

"Oh, so it was like that?" Jian Chen nodded his head as if he had suddenly realized something.

"Come quickly with me then, the night is quickly approaching. Our men can only hold them off for a small moment, if we take too long, then the situation will become drastic." Believing Jian Chen

had already agreed to return to the Heiming clan, the man began to run off in a direction.

However before he could get too far, he immediately stopped and turned around to look at the non moving Jian Chen with furrowed eyebrows, “Why aren’t you moving.”

Jian Chen had some doubt on his face, “Where to?”

Hearing Jian Chen, the man felt fear in his heart as he realized this wouldn’t go as smoothly as he thought. “Where else? Of course we are going back to the Heiming clan, or did you want to die somewhere else?”

“But, I never said I would go with you.” Jian Chen spoke with no emotion.

The faces of every Heiming clan member changed abruptly as the head of the group also had a dark expression on his face as he stared at Jian Chen coldly, “Wu Yun, are you playing with us?”

Jian Chen laughed, “I’m not playing with you, did you hear me say that I would head back to the Heiming clan with you?”

The middle aged man let out a breath of air before taking in another deep breath as his glare turned malicious. Laughing angrily, he said, “Good. Very good. Wu Yun, you’ve refused to drink a cup in toast, so you will instead drink a cup in defeat, don’t blame us for being impolite!”

With that, the middle aged man charged at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's eyes flashed coldly as he brought out his own personal Saint Weapon. Quickly a thin and slender silver sword appeared in his right hand. Against these Heiming clan members, Jian Chen could tell that the difference between their strengths was as clear as day. The middle aged man that had spoken out to him first was a Primary Great Saint Master, and the other men with him were only at the Peak Saint Master level. A display of strength like this was not a threat at all to Jian Chen.

Seeing the men charge at him, Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword began to emit a hazy glow over its edges as a sign of the Sword Qi sharpening the sword. Then, with a single thrust, an extremely loud sound echoed through the streets that shook even the buildings.

"Haha, Heiming clansman, your movements are truly fast." Suddenly, an extremely intense amount of Sword Qi rose up and shot toward the middle aged man.

With this sudden change, the man's face grew extremely serious as he felt the strong amount of Sword Qi emanating from the object flying at him. With a mental sigh to himself, his heart knew that the chance to capture Jian Chen had been lost. With a grunting sound, a strong amount of Saint Force filled his hands as a two handed sword appeared. He used it to swing down at the speeding Sword Qi flying toward him.

The moment Jian Chen saw that sword, his legs tapped against the ground as he retreated backward.

“Bang!”

Just as Jian Chen retreated, a large amount of energy smashed into the ground below and kicked up a strong gale of dust and rubble. The sounds of devastation echoed in every direction as even the nearby shops had been hit by the shockwave.

The fortunate bystanders on the streets that weren't hit immediately jumped away from the area with no hesitation. With how common wars were in the Tian Yuan Continent, this event was nothing new to anyone so the bystanders did not have any looks of fear or even shock.

After the shock wave had dissipated, the middle aged man from the Heiming clan stood in his original position with a serious expression.

At the same time, a group of people approached Jian Chen's direction from behind him. Even the tops of nearby buildings had many people leaping toward the commotion to get at Jian Chen.

It took only a moment for the entire street to be filled with hundreds of people that formed an impenetrable crowd. Even the nearby rooftops were filled with people.

“Anyone unrelated to this matter should leave immediately.”

A voice suddenly called out, causing all bystanders to feel the need to leave the area. After that, the crowd formed an empty passageway for the bystanders to leave from quickly.

Seeing the surrounding people outnumber him by a hundred at the very least, Jian Chen's face finally grew more serious than usual. Among this group, he could feel that many of them were rather strong, while the others were at the very least at the Great Saint Master level.

Chapter 180: Here Is My Offer

At this moment, an elderly man wearing an expensive red robe examined the crowd of people around him before letting out a smile. “How lively this area is, to have so many influential people in the vicinity. How rare, how rare indeed. Truly, this is a seldom seen view. This old man hasn’t seen such a sight in many years.”

“Hmph, old man Yu Ping, you should had stayed behind with your Cheng clan, there was no need for you to come visit Phoenix City.” Another black haired elder stood on top of one of the rooftops.

The elder named Yu Ping laughed coldly as he stared at the other crane hairstyled elder and said, “Huang Pingshu, for you to come to Phoenix City, could it be you wanted to block me from doing as I please?”

“Hmph, old devil Ping Yu, I have not forgotten about that time 5 years ago. With this opportunity, why don’t we end this once in for all.” Huang Pingshu stared at the elder Ping Yu and spoke in a cold tone that clearly expressed his killing intent.

“That’s right, it’s about time I repay the debt from 5 years ago.” The red robed elder spoke. A large amount of Saint Force gathered in his hand, quickly condensing into curved blade 2.33 meters long.

By this point, both elders’ attitudes had become serious. The middle aged man by the red robed elder walked to him and said, “Honored Yu Ping, now is not the time to settle your grudges. It

would be best to finish what is in front of us first before resolving the grievances between you two.”

The red robed elder nodded his head, “Whatever. Huang Pingshu, with this current situation, now isn’t the time. Let us wait for this matter in front of us to be done first before we resolve our grievances.”

The other elder looked at Jian Chen briefly, knowing that now was the opportunity for something else before snorting, “Then I’ll let you off for now.”

At this moment, a group of people was traveling on the two sides of the streets. From their fast speed but relative pacing, anyone that saw them could see that they were a part of the same group.

As that group grew closer, those men who were standing by the sides of the houses they walked past, quickly let them pass.

The men stopped at the side of a house with an even stare at Jian Chen, who was in the middle of the besiegement of men. “This must be the honorable Wu Yun.”

Jian Chen turned his head to see a white robed, middle aged man with only an inch of hair on his head and a scar on his face.

Jian Chen said, “Correct, I am Wu Yun. What made everyone here gather so many people to stop me? I don’t know the reason.”

“Haha, honorable Wu Yun, this old man wants to ask: The two Class 5 Magical Beast bodies, were they not produced by you?” The red robed elder questioned.

Jian Chen couldn't help but laugh faintly, “I didn't think that a nameless person like me would garner the attention of so many influential people. However, your investigations are correct; the person who brought those two Class 5 Magical Beasts to the auction house was me.”

Despite having many people of power surrounding him, Jian Chen didn't have a single shred of fear on his face. In front of this hundred people encirclement, he was laughing as if nothing had happened.

“Honorable Wu Yun, this one here is the vice leader of the Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion—Zhou Tong. Since you had the Class 5 Magical Beast bodies, then it can be assumed that you also have the Class 5 Monster Cores. Our Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion is willing to offer a price of your satisfaction and buy this monster core, would the honorable Wu Yun agree?”

“Of course, if the honorable Wu Yun were to sell a Class 5 Monster Core, then our Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion will become your friend. If you were to come across any problems, then our Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion will definitely help you resolve it. Will the honorable Wu Yun agree?” Zhou Tong stood on the rooftops with a faint smile.

After Zhou Tong had spoken, another dark-skinned and sturdy person spoke out, “Honorable Wu Yun, I am from the Yang Sect. I

do not like coddling around, so I will speak bluntly; of the two Class 5 Monster Cores in your hands, the Yang Sect is willing to buy one of them. The price we offer will be to your satisfaction, but will the honorable Wu Yun agree to sell one?”

Seeing these two major powers ask for the Class 5 Monster Cores, the other influential powers didn't wish to lag behind.

“Sire Wu Yun, we are from the Youlan clan. Although we are not considered as anything major on the Tian Yuan Continent, there isn't a single person that would not try to please our Youlan clan in Fire Cloud City. As long as the honorable Wu Yun sells us a Class 5 Monster Core, then the Youlan clan can guarantee a comfortable stay within Fire Cloud City without anyone trying to cause trouble.” A man in an expensive robe spoke out.

“Sire Wu Yun, I am from the Mutian clan...”

“Sire Wu Yun, we are from the Kadeer clan...”

Every single person there began to open their mouths to buy a Class 5 Monster Core from Jian Chen.

Seeing at least 10 sides of powers cry out, Jian Chen bitterly smiled, “I am afraid to disappoint everyone, but I do not have any Class 5 Monster Cores. Although it was indeed I who brought these two Class 5 Magical Beasts to be sold, they were not killed by me; I merely found their bodies.”

“Haha, the honorable Wu Yun doesn’t need to try to cover it up anymore. The body of a Class 5 Magical Beast is valuable enough that even a Heaven Saint Master wouldn’t leave it behind. Moreover, we’ve already inspected the Class 5 Magical Beast bodies only to find that these two magical beasts had fought each other to death, and were then later found by a person. From the wounds, it was easy to tell that a man-made wound was done by a weaker person, who then tried to extract the monster core. This means that it is indeed the honored Wu Yun, without a doubt.” An elder laughed, almost as if he was discussing the weather with some friends.

“That’s right, sire Wu Yun, we only wish to buy the Class 5 Monster Cores from you, not steal them. Even if you sell them to us, you won’t lose out. These Class 5 Monster Cores aren’t safe with you, and keeping them on you would surely bring about disaster. If you were to sell them to us, then you could earn a great sum of money to the point of not needing to worry about clothes or food anymore. Even then, you would be able to buy many monster cores to cultivate your own strength. Some day in the future, you could break through to become a Great Saint master, or even an Earth Saint Master. What have you to lose?” Zhou Tong of the Flowing Cloud Sword Pavilion spoke out.

Chapter 181: Few Against Many

Now that the situation had escalated to this, Jian Chen knew that aside from a body search, there was no other way they would believe him. If they searched him, they would look in his Space Belt, and that could not be allowed to happen! Excluding the two Class 5 Monster Cores lying peacefully within, if they were to discover his Space Ring, Class 4 Monster Cores, and the large amount of purple coins, then the hearts of everyone here would harbor wicked thoughts.

Jian Chen knew that hiding anything was useless at this point. Although there were many people here, he was still not afraid.

He took a look around himself, with so many strong people that could easily capture him releasing such a strong amount of Qi, he began to laugh, “Since everyone has figured it out, I don’t need to hide it anymore. You are correct, the Class 5 Monster Cores are on my body. But I only have these 2 monster cores; how does everyone here plan to share the monster cores with so many people?”

Jian Chen’s words caused everyone present to grow hesitant. The Class 5 Magical Beasts were precious, but the Class 5 Monster Cores were undoubtedly even more precious; no one was willing to give them up so easily. They knew in their hearts as well that there were only two Class 5 Monster Cores, and there were at least 10 different powers here. Each side was a major power in their respective area with very little gaps between them all, so splitting the 2 monster cores among them would be a huge problem.

In a moment, the atmosphere around Jian Chen had become strange. Everyone's eyes began to turn cold as every single person who had been festive a moment ago suddenly gained a killing intent.

However, this atmosphere didn't last long before an elderly voice broke the silence, "Sire Wu Yun, the issue of how to split the monster cores is something that we'll naturally discuss later. There is no need for you to worry about it. For now, just bring out the Class 5 Monster Cores."

Jian Chen turned towards the one that spoke, only to see a relatively short, white robed elder. He only reached up to Jian Chen's chest, and his face was full of wrinkles. But beneath those wrinkles lay eyes that shone brightly.

The elder's voice was relatively calm, but the meaning behind his words carried some ill intent. Jian Chen coldly laughed as he replied, "Elder, I apologize, but I will keep these two Class 5 Monster Core. They aren't for sale!" Jian Chen emphasized the last sentence extremely strongly with hesitation, leaving no room for further discussion.

The moment everyone heard that Jian Chen wasn't going to sell the monster cores, everyone's expressions suddenly changed, and looked at Jian Chen with cold gazes. Quite a few people didn't even bother to conceal their strong killing intents. If it weren't for the fact that over 10 powers were simultaneously targeting the Class 5 Monster Cores, making the situation more complicated, these people probably wouldn't have bothered speaking to Jian Chen politely; they would've taken the initiative to take them by force

ages ago. Spending money to purchase the Class 5 Monster Cores wasn't their original intention at all.

“Honorable Wu Yun, those two Class 5 Monster Cores will only bring you trouble if they remain in your possession, and may even be the cause of your death. You had better choose carefully.” A golden robed, refined-looking youth who looked to be around 30 years old said. This man was from the Mutian clan.

“That's correct, Sire Wu Yun, it wouldn't be proper for the Class 5 Monster Cores to remain in your possession. You should sell them to us.” A Jialuo clan member said.

Soon after that, every other clan began to demand for Jian Chen to sell the cores, but no one mentioned a price.

Jian Chen knew all too well just how precious these Class 5 Monster Cores were. Since he had tens of thousands of purple coins in his Space Belt, he had no shortage of money. Thus, he had absolutely no desire to sell them.

Jian Chen cupped his hands together in an apologetic manner, “Gentlemen, I am truly sorry. This one won't be selling the monster cores. There are some important matters this one must attend to, so this one won't be accompanying everyone any longer.” With that, Jian Chen turned to leave with a casual and carefree face, but he had long since prepared himself to be ready to strike at any second.

“Hmph, you've refused to drink the toast, so drink the wine of

punishment!”

Jian Chen’s course of action had angered many of the men there, and instantly, those of the Saint Master level immediately charged toward Jian Chen in an attempt to seize him.

The movements of these men were like the fuse to a fire. The very moment they charged at Jian Chen, people from each clan immediately followed suit. Some of the people charged at Jian Chen, while some were blocking the others trying to steal from Jian Chen.

At this moment, everyone knew in their hearts that if they wanted a Class 5 Monster Core, the best way to obtain one would be to steal it from Jian Chen. Every single Great Saint Master expert had already seen that Jian Chen’s strength was only at the Peak Saint Master level. To the clans, this type of strength could only be classified as “not bad”, so there was absolutely no need to worry about him.

Seeing the people come at him, Jian Chen faintly sneered, and a killing intent flashed in his eyes. Despite these clansmen having strong powers supporting them that shouldn’t be provoked, if he were to let these men bully him without retaliating, then he wouldn’t dare call himself Jian Chen. He was not a man who was afraid of getting involved in trouble.

His silver Light Wind Sword appeared instantly in his right hand as it flashed with a silver glow. In another instant, it flew lightning fast towards the people that charged at him.

Because of the sword's extremely fast speed, those men that were only at the Saint Master level hadn't anticipated his sword coming at them with such blinding speed. They could barely catch a glimpse of the sword. By the time they were finally able to react, the Light Wind Sword had already ruthlessly pierced their throats. Not a single person was able to evade it.

After reaching the Peak Saint Master level, Jian Chen's inner strength and essence had swiftly improved. Any Saint Master opponent, unless they had the wind Saint Force, would not be able to dodge his attacks.

In the blink of an eye, a few Saint Master experts had died to Jian Chen's sword. With this sudden display of battle strength, those who had wanted to rob Jian Chen of his monster cores suddenly turned pale with fright before becoming even more vigilant. Carefully holding their Saint Weapons in front of them, they continued to slowly approach Jian Chen.

Even after killing those few men, Jian Chen continued to move forward with his course of action. His feet stepped across the ground with a speed of a demon as he disappeared from sight. The next time he reappeared, he was already 3 meters ahead of where he used to be, and was running toward the furthest person who wanted to steal from him.

Chapter 182: No Fear

Following the twinkling light of Jian Chen's sword, three of the people in the back of the incoming group instantly had their throats stabbed with the sharp tip of the sword.

At the same time, the other men near Jian Chen's figure started to wave their Saint Weapons with a strong amount of Saint Force as they slashed at him,

Even with the Saint Weapons slashing at him, Jian Chen didn't spare them a single glance. Almost as if he had eyes on the back of his head, he slanted his body slightly so that the weapons would just miss him.

“Ding!”

Not a single one of the Saint Weapons had hit Jian Chen. Because their target was Jian Chen, each Saint Weapon collided against each other in mid air and echoed in a small symphony of metal sounds. As the numerous Saint Weapons all collided against each other, the amount of energy could be seen spiralling into the air.

Jian Chen's eyes flashed dangerously as he took advantage of the stagnated Saint Weapons. In a flash the Light Wind Sword emitted a hazy glow that enshrouded everyone nearby. The Saint Weapon shined with light and with the trail of Sword Qi following the tip, it resembled the scythe of the god of death. With each stroke, the blade flew at the throat of each person and landed a fatal blow that spilled blood from their wounds.

In a short moment that wasn't even long enough to make one full breath, around 10 more Saint Masters had died by Jian Chen's hands. Another flash of killing intent could be seen in Jian Chen's eyes as the Light Wind Sword glowed silver once more and the amount of Sword Qi intensified. Just as Jian Chen was about to continue to kill, a voice suddenly called out.

“Stay your hand!”

Upon that, everyone that was charging at Jian Chen suddenly stopped. At the same time, the person who Jian Chen had just stabbed in the throat fell to the floor.

“What a fast sword!”

“That sword is so f*cking fast.”

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Within the group were many astounded men, among them were many Saint Masters who could see Jian Chen's sword. However even then, they were astounded by the lightning speed Jian Chen had displayed. They all knew that against this fast of a sword, they would need to be extra prudent otherwise they risked losing their lives.

At this point, the few Great Saint Masters who were looking down on Jian Chen now had a different opinion of him. Now they

saw him as an opponent of an equal standing.

In this short moment, aside from those Saint Masters on the floor, every other Saint Master's face greyed as they grew serious. In that short instant, they could only see the hazy white glow of Jian Chen's sword and not the death of their comrades.

Jian Chen's right hand held his sword as he stood over the bodies with blood dripping down the tip. He stared coldly at everyone around him and said, "If you wish to steal from me, you'll find that it won't be easy. At the very least, I will make you all pay a heavy price for it."

Jian Chen's words didn't cause any Peak Saint Master to feel frantic at all. Within this 100 man group, there were many Great Saint Master experts, so they did not believe in the delirious statement coming from Jian Chen.

Although the words of Jian Chen did seem a little delusional, not a single person had said anything in response. Even the Great Saint Masters had been speechless; for those Saint Masters lying down at Jian Chen's feet were proof of his strength.

"Pa pa pa..."

Standing on the rooftop, an elder began to clap with a faint smile on his face, "Sire Wu Yun is indeed skillful. To think I would be able to see such a sight, how admirable. Truly admirable."

Jian Chen returned the smile but did not reply to him. “Everyone, do you still wish to rob me of my things?”

As Jian Chen finished speaking, a middle aged man with a dark expression spoke, “Hmph, don’t think that because you have some strength you can put everyone else beneath you. Wu Yun, although you’ve killed a few of my Youlan clan members, I will show you that without giving those monster cores, you will not leave this area alive.”

“Sire Wu Yun, even though our Mutian clan also had some deaths to you, they were the outstanding members of the clan and were favored by the clan leader. If you do not hand over compensation today, even we will have a hard time quelling this. Our clan leader’s wrath is not an easy thing to accept.”

Hearing these two men talk, everyone else saw it as a stroke of good luck. No one felt the need to retreat despite Jian Chen’s strength surprising them. Although they still felt that they needed to keep up a deathly serious vigilance. After all, Class 5 Monster Cores were too alluring to any person. Right now, the only problem was that there were too many parties involved and there were only 2 Class 5 Monster Cores making it impossible to share. Despite everyone being aware of Jian Chen’s strength, no one was afraid of the consequences.

Jian Chen’s glare intensified in danger as he understood that another fight was unavoidable. With a cold laugh, he said, “So it’s like this. Then let me give you your compensation.” The Light Wind Sword exploded with a silver glow as the Sword Qi assimilated into the surrounding air of the men 10 meters away.

Everyone immediately felt a sharp stinging sensation in their skin almost as if a multitude of sharp swords were pressing against their skin.

Jian Chen's feet stamped across the ground as he glided with the speed of a demon. The 10 meters separating him and the men in front of him were gone in an instant as he arrived right in front of the Youlan clan group. Brandishing his Light Wind Sword, he used his Sword Qi to enshroud the group within his Sword Qi.

The Youlan clan were already a group of people Jian Chen disliked, so they would be the first people he would eliminate.

"Everyone be careful!" The leader of the Youlan clan cried out. In an instant a sword appeared in his hands. Even within the emptiness that was the Sword Qi, he waved his sword and delivered a downward stroke.

"Ding!"

A loud sound filled the air as a slender looking sword suddenly appeared within the Sword Qi and clashed against the sword. Immediately an intense shockwave flew from the two Saint Weapons in a visible arc and smashed violently against the two sides of the street. Suddenly, the walls of stone began to shake before a layer of dust shook and flew into the air.

When the two Saint Weapons collided, Jian Chen immediately recalled his weapon and twirled around on the ground with an extremely fast speed. In a moment, he had dodged the second

stroke of the man.

The entire Youlan clan had already prepared themselves to face off against the speedy Jian Chen. Standing in front of everyone else were hardened men with Saint Force emanating from their hands to form their Saint Weapons before slashing at Jian Chen with it.

Just then, a few milliseconds after the Saint Weapons were swung, a silver ray of light flashed before they could even react and stabbed into their throats.

Chapter 183: One Against Three

The Light Wind Sword was still moving extremely fast, the silver glow had become a streak of light that made it hard to distinguish the blade. Great Saint Masters would have to be careful when dealing with it, while a Saint Master would find this blade fatal.

The Light Wind Sword wrecked havoc as each Youlan clansmen was completely powerless to do anything before his throat was slashed, cutting the main artery in their neck. Saint Masters only saw a streak of light, before they felt a sharp pain at their throats.. Following that, each one of them began to choke and fall to the ground.

Jian Chen continued to move in between each Youlan clan member as his Light Wind Sword continued to move around with Sword Qi enshrouding it. Within the group, each clansmen felt a sharp pain at their throats before falling to the ground. Wherever Jian Chen moved, people would fall, and within that group of Saint Masters, very few escaped his wrath.

Within the time it took to take two deep breaths, Jian Chen had already killed twenty men from the Youlan clan group.

Since his sword techniques were very fast and accurate, Jian Chen's killing potential was tremendous. For those who only had the same level of strength as Jian Chen, it was guaranteed that the first strike would be fatal. In the time it took for the Youlan clan's Great Saint Masters to reach the frontlines, they saw 20 of their men die. They could only glare and gnash their teeth in anger before they reached him.. Those Saint Masters who died may have

only been the middle ranking members of the clan, but they had brought a total of fifty people. For almost half of their group to be gone within two deep breaths, this was an incomparably cruel event for them.

“You seek death!”

“Wu Yun, don’t think you can escape alive!”

The elder and middle aged man leaped down from the rooftop with a snarl, as they charged toward Jian Chen. Their Saint Weapons pulsed with a strong Saint Force that vibrated against everyone’s ears as they slashed through the air toward Jian Chen.

Jian Chen and the middle aged man crossed swords. The middle aged man with red eyes snarled and pushed against Jian Chen.

“Three Great Saint Masters!” Feeling the intense energy of three Saint Weapon users, Jian Chen’s face revealed a cold smile. If he were still at the Primary Saint Master level, then three Great Saint Masters would have given him a tremendous amount of trouble. It was a shame for them that Jian Chen had reached the Peak Saint Master level which was a world away from the Primary level. These 3 Great Saint Masters could be fought with his strength as long as they didn’t have an attribute or some sort of strong battle skill.

“Yin!”

The Light Wind Sword, encased in light, stabbed forward with an ear splitting sound. In an instant, Jian Chen had already stabbed ten times, intercepting the three incoming Saint Weapons, causing a series of metallic sounds.

Those ten strokes smashed against the three Saint Weapons like a torrent. Although they saw the amount of power put behind each one of the ten strokes, the owners of each Saint Weapon weren't worried. A large amount of Saint Force exploded from their weapons and reinforced their attacks' downward momentum which were focused on Jian Chen.

Even though he was up against three Great Saint Masters as a Saint Master, he wasn't afraid at all. Instead, his fighting strength was at an all time high. The Light Wind Sword disappeared in a blur once more as he clashed against the three Saint Weapons.

Although Jian Chen could dodge the blows, he had wanted to verify his own strength against the three Great Saint Masters. After all, he had finally reached the Peak Saint Master level; and this was the first battle where he was up against multiple Great Saint Masters. With his own eyes, he wanted to find out his limits.

The slim Light Wind Sword clashed once more with the Saint Weapons, releasing a large amount of Saint Force that was disproportionate to its size. The clash of Saint Force rippled throughout the area and crashed against the buildings surrounding them again. Immediately, the stone walls began to grow cracks, like cobwebs, that spread further and further out.

Long before they had begun fighting, the civilians within the

buildings had already evacuated from them, so they weren't afraid of involving any innocent bystanders. The streets that previously had hundreds of people had all been evacuated, allowing the fighters a wide open space to fight.

The people not involved in the fighting were astounded. They saw Jian Chen, a Saint Master, able to fight on equal grounds with three Great Saint Masters. Not a single one of them believed what they saw.

“This Wu Yun is truly complex. To only be a Peak Saint Master yet have this much fighting strength? He is truly strong, and his sword strokes are incomparably fast yet accurate. His sword has already slashed twice or thrice, but each movement is very smooth, like water. There is not a single wasted movement, and each sword stroke flows into the next seamlessly with absolutely no space in his movement. Ai, just based on fighting experience, he is not lacking in the slightest.” An elder spoke with some admiration.

“It would seem that the Wu Yun's experiences with life or death battles number way more than ours, otherwise, there would be no way for him to have such a refined fighting experience. Fighting experience isn't something that can be taught and learned, but only experienced by walking the line between life and death. This is something that can only be comprehended by the fierce hammer of experience.”

“The most important detail is the speed of his sword. It is far too fast to be created by experience, could it be a special type of battle skill?”

Upon hearing those two words, everyone's eyes began to shine. Battle skills were very precious on the Tian Yuan Continent as well as being very rare. The influential powers gathered here didn't even have a single low class battle skill. Even if they did, only the core of the clan members would be able to have the chance to learn it.

These two words had overwhelming temptation, much more than that of a silly Class 5 Monster Core.

“This sword style that Wu Yun uses must definitely be a profound battle skill, otherwise he would not be able to contend against a Great Saint Master and wouldn't be so fast.”

In that short moment, everyone in the crowd had approved to this explanation. In their eyes, aside from a battle skill, there was no other explanation for Jian Chen's speed or strength.

Just thinking about if Jian Chen had a battle skill caused everyone to have a burning glow within their eyes. Battle skills were a thing that every cultivator drooled over. As long as one was a cultivator, there was no way to resist the allure of having a battle skill.

Chapter 184: Battle Skill?

At this moment, many Great Saint Masters had become very lively. The blood within their bodies was boiling with excitement at the mere mention of a battle skill. Many of them were anxious to just charge at Jian Chen in order to rob him of this battle skill.

Even though every single person had that urging thought, no one had decided to make a move. No one there was an idiot, seeing Jian Chen fight with 3 Great Saint Masters on even footing, they all knew that Jian Chen's strength was not as easy as they previously thought. Right now, everyone was waiting for the Great Saint Masters from the Youlan clan to use up Jian Chen's Saint Force.

The Saint Force was the energy one needed to have to fight. In the case that the amount of Saint Force consumed was too much, then it would impact one's fighting strength. By that point, everyone could easily rob Jian Chen.

Jian Chen and the 3 Great Saint Masters continued to fight for the time it took to boil a cup of tea. With each second, Jian Chen met blow for blow against his opponents without dodging a single attack from them.

While on the other side, the 3 Great Saint Masters from the Youlan clan grew more and more fearful. They had already been shocked beyond belief at first, but they hadn't thought that a Peak Saint Master would be able to go against 3 Great Saint Masters at the same time with no change in expression. What was most frightening was that this Peak Saint Master was able to go blow for blow against them without any drawbacks.

As the four continued to fight, Jian Chen had already determined his own strength against the three as they continued to try to coordinate themselves against him. His body would constantly dodge the Saint Weapons and with a step forward, he would stab his Light Wind Sword which let out an ear piercing sound as it flew at the Great Saint Masters.

This sword stroke had caused those Great Saint Masters to feel extremely shocked. From the eyes of these 3 Great Saint Masters, this one sword stroke was the fastest one yet. In a flash, the tip of the Light Wind Sword had already approached the throat of one of them.

The elder who the Light Wind Sword was about to pierce grew serious. In this short of a distance, the chances of him being able to dodge the attack were very low.

In this moment between life and death, the elder wasn't frantic. With an explosive shout, a large amount of Saint Force burst out from his body and wrapped around him. Another wave of Saint Force rippled and obstructed the Light Wind Sword for only the smallest of moments, but it was enough for the elder to give him the chance to twist his upper body to the side.

The explosive strength of a Great Saint Master could not be belittled at all. The moment the ripple of energy made contact with the Light Wind Sword, the tip of its sword slowly managed to break through it before continuing on toward the elder's throat. However because of that wave of energy, the speed of the sword was much slower than before.

The Light Wind Sword approached the elder's neck once more. Even as the elder turned his body, the incredibly sharp Sword Qi had left a small line of blood on his neck.

“Elder Ling, move quickly!”

At the same time, the two other Great Saint Masters by his side cried out angrily as they slashed at Jian Chen with their Saint Weapons in order to divert Jian Chen's attention away from the other elder.

Jian Chen snorted. After confirming his newly refined strength, he was no longer playing around with these elders. Deciding that he needed to resolve this issue quickly, he began to try with all of his efforts to accomplish this. Dodging the two blades coming at him, he stabbed out once more with a speed that wasn't inferior at all to the previous strike.

The next elder from the Youlan clan dodged Jian Chen's strike with a desperate maneuver, but before he could regain his footing, Jian Chen struck out like a python once more.

“Pch!”

The Light Wind Sword flashed with a silver glow as the tip of the sword had easily pierced into the elder's throat. With his throat pierced straight through, the Light Wind Sword was stained with the elder's dark red blood that slowly dripped down to the handle of the sword.

The second strike wasn't anticipated at all, so before the elder could react, he had his throat stabbed. The sword was moving far too fast and the distance between the two was tiny, so after dodging the first strike, the second strike had warmly greeted him in the throat.

“Elder Ling!”

“Ling Badong!”

Seeing the sword pierce into the elder's throat, the other two Great Saint Masters from the Youlan clan cried out in horror and disbelief.

Neither of the two had thought that a Peak Saint Master would be able to handle 3 Great Saint Masters with ease and then kill one of them.

“Wu Yun, I'll kill you!”

“Don't think about leaving this place alive, Wu Yun!”

The two people gnashed their teeth with fury as they glared at Jian Chen. Almost as if they were dripping blood from their eyes, they wished that their gazes would be enough to chop Jian Chen up into a thousand pieces. Clenching their Saint Weapons, they charged at Jian Chen.

The surrounding people looked on with shocked etched into their

faces. Not only was Jian Chen facing against 3 Great Saint Masters with no disadvantage, Jian Chen had even killed one of them. This show of strength was absolutely unbelievable, causing many people to think that they had somehow entered some sort of dream and not the real world.

“Battle skill, this is definitely a battle skill!”

“A battle skill like this was somehow able to let a Peak Saint Master to kill a Great Saint Master!”

“There is absolutely no way for this to not be a strong battle skill!”

“No matter what price we have to pay, we must obtain this battle skill!”

.....

Within the crowd, a loud shout came calling out. Everyone began to attribute Jian Chen’s kill to the use of a battle skill. By now, the emotions of each person’s eye couldn’t be concealed as even their bodies began to shake in excitement. In the case that the battle skill became theirs, then if they were to perfect it, how strong would they become?

“Yin!”

A metallic sound broke through the air as the Light Wind Sword

transformed into another ray of light that enshrouded the remaining Youlan clan members with its Sword Qi.

“Ding ding ding ding...”

A symphony of sounds could be heard as the Light Wind Sword and the two other Saint Weapons clashed against each other at rapid speeds. Unlike the previous exchanges, Jian Chen’s sword was much faster than before and was filled with a killing intent. So after five or six successful blocks, both Great Saint Masters were utterly flustered.

The sword coming at them was far too fast, and the frequency too much to handle. One strike came after another in an endless torrent that linked into one another seamlessly as if the heavens had decreed it so.

Chapter 185: Escape

Jian Chen's sword was getting faster and faster, increasing the amount of pressure both Youlan clan members felt. For two Great Saint Masters to be pushed into such a situation like this, it was truly miserable.

“Sou!”

The Light Wind Sword became a silver light that flew at a terrifying speed towards the middle aged man's neck. It instantly pierced straight through.

In just a small moment, another Great Saint Master had died by Jian Chen's sword.

The remaining Great Saint Master was left with a shocked face. With two people, they had just barely managed to fight Jian Chen on even ground, and had even fallen to being at a disadvantage. Now that his companion had died, based on the strength that Jian Chen had displayed, he alone was definitely not an opponent for Jian Chen. If he really did try to go against Jian Chen by himself, he'd probably just die even faster.

With that thought, the remaining Great Saint Master elder suddenly grew incomparably pale. But he wasn't stupid, and before Jian Chen could attack him, he cried out, “Everyone, not only does Wu Yun have a Class 5 Monster Core, but he also has a high leveled battle skill. Any one of us alone won't be able kill him; rather, we'll be killed by him. If we want to obtain the Class 5 Monster Core and

the battle skill, we should quickly join hands and bring him down together.”

The words the elder said were solely to save his own life, but they weren't without reason either. After all, Jian Chen had already fought against 3 Great Saint Masters by himself before quickly killing two of them; everyone had witnessed this with their own eyes.

“Charge! Together, we will take that battle skill!”

“Wu Yun's strength is too strong; even 2-3 Great Saint Masters didn't have much chance of winning. We should take advantage of the fact that we currently have many people, and kill him first, since his power is much more powerful than any of ours.”

.....

The elder's words had quickly gained approval from everyone there. Soon, 7-8 Great Saint Masters pulled out their Saint Weapons and charged at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's expression changed. Although he didn't feel that going against 3 Great Saint Masters was strenuous, there were currently a dozen clans with two or three Great Saint Masters. If they fought together, even he wouldn't be able to handle that.

Jian Chen didn't have much time to think about it, since 7-8 Great Saint Masters had already reached him. With a roar, their

Saint Force enforced Saint Weapons simultaneously slashed at him. Although these men hadn't coordinated together much before, it was clear that these men had a strong amount of fighting experience. With each of their Saint Weapons, they easily blocked off Jian Chen's escape routes.

Jian Chen's face hardened further. As he looked at the 8 Great Saint masters, he could feel a great amount of pressure on him. With a quick wave of his right arm, the after images of his Light Wind Sword instantly filled the air.

“Ding ding ding ding...”

The sounds of metal hitting metal could be heard once more as in that small moment, the Light Wind Sword collided with the opposing Saint Weapons more than ten times. It looked like the Light Wind Sword had blocked all the weapons, offsetting them from their original positions.

Jian Chen's body swayed, and he instantly he flew at another person with his Light Wind Sword, aiming straight at the man's throat.

The man had just swung down his sword and hadn't gotten a chance to retract it. Since he had just expended energy and had yet to recover it, he wasn't able to evade the lightning fast sword.

“Pch!”

The Light Wind Sword immediately bore straight through his throat.

Feeling the sharp sting of pain in his throat, the middle aged man went into shock, and he couldn't breathe. A feeling of disbelief, as well as a powerful dizziness, began to spread through his head.

"Death? Have I died? Has my life really ended in such a way like this? To think that I would die by the hands of a Saint Master..." In his final moments of life, the middle aged man was still unable to believe it. He was a majestic Great Saint Master, but in the end, he had fallen to a mere Saint Master.

As the Light Wind Sword was pulled out from his neck, the man slowly fell to the ground. As his life gradually reached an end, his eyes remained wide open as he died with remaining grievance.

"Lorde!"

A green robed, skinny, middle aged man standing on the top of the roof stared down at the skinny man on the ground. His expression changed as he cried out with shock, and he leaped down from the roof. In a flash, he arrived at the man's side.

"Lorde, Lorde..."

The green robed man crouched down and cried out the dead man's name anxiously. But the man was already completely dead, so no matter how much the green robed man cried, he wouldn't

get a reply.

Not too far away, another middle aged man and 6 other black robed elders stood on top of a building and watched the distant battle.

“City Lord, are we not going to go down to prevent this situation? After all, Phoenix City belongs to us.” An elder said calmly.

A white robed, middle aged man shook his head as he spoke in a somewhat helpless tone, “It won’t do us any good to obstruct this. Although this is Phoenix City, our territory, there are not only many clans from other cities with peak strength gathered over there, but also 3 of our own Phoenix City clans. If we were to rashly do something, we might offend many people.”

“But this man named Wu Yun; his strength is fairly strong. At the Peak Saint Master level, he has already killed a few Great Saint Masters. This is a very rare sight on the Tian Yuan Continent.” Another middle aged man next to the City Lord sighed.

The City Lord nodded and said, “Correct. I don’t know where this Wu Yun came from, but his strength is very strong, especially his sword. It is so fast that even Great Saint Masters need to be careful. But there are still a good amount of Great Saint Masters and over a hundred Saint Masters there. Even though this Wu Yun is not weak at all, even he will have trouble escaping from this.”

“If he were to have the strength of a Great Saint Master as well,

then I would wager he would be able to escape from here.” An elder said in a low voice.

.....

Nearby, two gray robed men stood upright on top of another building as they observed the battle. The two man group was comprised of a middle aged man and an elderly man. This elder was the one who had spent 100,000 purple coins to purchase the body of the Quick Cloud Beast at the auction.

“Young lord, it is up to you if we should help him or not. After all, this Quick Cloud Beast was provided by him, so it could be said that he helped us.” The gray robed elder spoke to the other man.

The middle aged man shook his head, “I don’t see the need for it. This Wu Yun is very complex; although he is young, he has the strength of a Peak Saint Master with a great amount of fighting strength. Even those Great Saint Masters were powerless against this man. This kind of potential is rarely seen on the Tian Yuan Continent.”

“Besides, his movements aren’t bad. If he wanted to run away, then he has a good chance of succeeding. To him, this might just be a test; after all, if he only cultivated quickly, it would only bring him so far. One must undergo a trial of blood and fire in order to truly be tested. Only when one walks the line in between life or death can one truly be called a genius. Otherwise, it would disgrace the very word of a genius.”

The elder nodded his head in approval, “The young lord is truly vicious, this elder cannot compare.”

The middle aged man let out a small smile as he spoke gently, “Elder Yun, it would be best to go now. We’ve found the Quick Cloud Beast, so our mission is over. We should go back”

With that, the two leaped off the roof and with a few flashes, disappeared from sight.

On the other side, Jian Chen and a few Great Saint Masters were engaged in an intense battle. 7-8 Great Saint Masters were surrounding him, making it impossible for Jian Chen be as relaxed as he had been during his fight against the first 3 Great Saint Masters. With each passing moment, Jian Chen was earning a new wound on his body. A few of the opposing Great Saint Masters had small traces of blood on their throats. If they hadn’t dodged the Light Wind Sword at the most crucial moment and had comrades supporting them, they would have long since turned into corpses.

Jian Chen’s eyes flashed as he quickly looked around him. He knew that his utilization of his sword had made everyone think that he was in possession of a battle skill. Because of the preciousness of battle skills on the Tian Yuan Continent, the enemies definitely would not relinquish their hold on him easily. Although he had already killed a few Great Saint Masters, there were still a dozen more strong clans with their own Great Saint Masters. If these Great Saint Masters were to truly cooperate with each other, then there would be no way at all for Jian Chen to deal with them with his current level of strength.

With that thought, Jian Chen didn't hesitate anymore. After defending a few more attacks aimed at him, his entire body soared into the sky as he quickly made his escape.

Chapter 186: Yet Another Escape

“He wants to escape...”

“Chase him! Don’t let him get away!”

“The battle skill is on him, there’s no way he can get away from us!”

“Hurry up and chase him!”

Just as Jian Chen leaped up, everyone began to shout. A high class battle skill was something even Earth Saint Masters would drool over. Even many Earth Saint Masters didn’t have a single battle skill, let alone a Great Saint Master.

“Wu Yun, stay still!”

“Where do you plan to run off to?”

“Hand over the battle skill or die!”

.....

Following a mix of passionate and furious roars, the Great Saint Masters on the roofs and the ground all attacked Jian Chen.

If Jian Chen were to continue to stay here and battle, then perhaps he wouldn't attract the attacks of everyone at once. However, now that he had started to run, no one would allow him to do so with ease.

There were at least 30 Saint Masters attacking Jian Chen. Their Saint Weapons surged with Saint Force as they filled the narrow space with incomparable power that would shock anyone.

Right above Jian Chen's head were a single axe, two swords, a cleaver, and even a machete that came crashing down with a terrifying amount of pressure.

With Jian Chen in midair, there was nowhere he could go to escape from this assault; he couldn't change his direction. Helplessly, he clenched the Light Wind Sword and began to swing quickly to form a web of sword strokes in front of him.

“Ding ding ding ding...”

The sounds of an amalgamate of Saint Weapons colliding together could be heard as the Light Wind Sword clashed fiercely with all of them. Although it had blocked the offensive weapons, the opposing Saint Weapons had an unbelievably strong amount of force that had placed such a large amount of a pressure on Jian Chen, and he was forced to fall back down to the ground.

Jian Chen's legs tapped onto the ground gently before he continued to run like a bullet with no hesitation, far away from the enemies.

Just as Jian Chen began to run, two more Great Saint Masters lashed out with their Saint Weapons. Charging toward Jian Chen, their eyes flashed fiercely as the Saint Force flowed into their Saint Weapons and prepared to make contact with Jian Chen with an ear-splitting sound.

A battle skill was just far too alluring. Jian Chen's strength was far beyond what anyone had expected; he had killed two Great Saint Masters without even giving them a chance to defend. Thus, every single person from the powerful clans had mutually agreed without communicating that they would join hands to deal with Jian Chen together.

Jian Chen's figure continued to run forward as the two Saint Weapons flew down on him. His feet became a blur as he instantly sped up and unfathomably crossed $\frac{2}{3}$ meter in that moment, perfectly evading the incoming attacks.

“Yin!”

The Light Wind Sword stabbed forward with lightning fast speed once more as it emitted an ear splitting sound while it cut through the air. At the same time, it carried a strong amount of power that would break through any defense as it headed toward one of the Great Saint Masters' throat.

“Pch!”

Jian Chen's eyes frosted over with an intense killing intent that

seemed as if it was almost capable of destroying souls. This made anyone with a weaker amount of strength afraid to make eye contact with him. Just as the Light Wind Sword immediately stabbed through the Great Saint Master, it was pulled out just as fast as it came. It then immediately stabbed towards the other Great Saint Master by his side.

Seeing how his companion had been killed, the remaining Great Saint Master couldn't help but grow pale with shock. Although he knew Jian Chen was superbly strong, he didn't think that it would be to such an extent. Even a Great Saint Master like his friend was killed by a mere Saint Master.

Seeing Jian Chen's sword that resembled the scythe of the god of death come at him, the Great Saint Master's expression suddenly changed. Recalling his Saint Weapon to himself, he tried to block the sword coming at his throat.

“Ding!”

Even though the Great Saint Master was able to block the fatal blow, the Light Wind Sword still carried enough force to push the man back involuntarily.

Before the man could regain his footing, another ear splitting sound could be heard as a silver glow of light stabbed through his throat

By the time the glow had dissipated, the only thing to be seen was a thin and slender, silver sword already dyed with a red tint.

The impaled Great Saint Master's eyes widened. In his final moments of being alive, a single thought spiraled through his head, "What...what a fast sword..."

At that moment, another 30 Great Saint Masters quickly began to charge at Jian Chen from all directions. The few already close to Jian Chen had already started to slash their Saint Weapons at him.

Jian Chen's eyes quickly swept around him as he quickly blocked a few Saint Weapons that were impossible to evade with his sword. In another instant, he quickly charged into a group of Saint Masters.

If he wanted to charge out of the encirclement formed by the 30 Great Saint Masters, he'd have to break through by ground, because there were hundreds of people protecting the ground. If he managed to mingle with the crowd, even those Great Saint Masters would have difficulty trying to obstruct him. If he escaped by air, he'd probably be surrounded by Great Saint Masters again as soon as he flew upwards.

With a flash, Jian Chen slipped into the ground. The Light Wind Sword turned into a silver light that flashed through the air as it pierced through the throats of the enemies. Against these Saint Master experts, Jian Chen's absolute strength would spare no one.

Quickly, Jian Chen charged forwards with the crowd of people. Any place he passed through, members of major clans on both sides of him would fall to the ground.

“Quick, run...”

The group of people grew frightened, and scattered in all directions like cats on a hot tin roof.

“Bastard!”

“Wu Yun, I won’t forgive you!”

“I’ll smash you into a thousand pieces!”

Seeing the people that had died from Jian Chen’s hands, a few Great Saint Masters grew flew into rages from frustration. They then began to charge into the crowd to chase after Jian Chen.

However, since there were people on their own sides within this dense crowd, the Great Saint Masters felt like they had an arm and leg tied behind their backs since they couldn’t kill indiscriminately like Jian Chen was doing.

“Everyone, disperse!”

A person immediately cried out, but it was unnecessary. Just as Jian Chen had rushed into a group of Saint Masters, they all ran for their lives in all directions. But because there was a hundred people crowded within a narrow street, it was impossible for all of them to escape from him within a short period of time. With Jian

Chen's incomparably fast sword, only a few of the further people could narrowly escape from his path as the unlucky ones were all slain.

Within a few breaths' time, Jian Chen had dyed the streets red with blood. He rushed out of the crowd of hundreds of people, and without showing any signs of stopping, immediately began to run off into the distance.

Behind him, the 30 remaining Great Saint Masters pursued him relentlessly, unwilling to let him go.

Chapter 187: Wind Attribute Great Saint Master

Seeing Jian Chen get further and further away, the city lord of Phoenix City let out a breath of air, “He’s as good as gone. If he were to stay around and toss these people about, I don’t know what our Phoenix City would end up looking like.”

The other men by the lord’s side silently nodded their heads. Although Phoenix City was a Class 2 City under their control, they could only control a few hundred thousand soldiers. This group here wasn’t just a single clan, it was a temporary alliance of a few dozen powerful clans that could easily be provoked. If they were to band together, then even an army of a hundred thousand would feel a headache when dealing with them.

“I didn’t think this Wu Yun would have a battle skill, what a shock this is. Even the various Earth Saint Masters on the Tian Yuan Continent don’t have such a battle skill.” An elder spoke with an envious admiration.

“This Wu Yun has a great amount of luck. Not only did he have 2 Class 5 Magical Beast bodies, but he also had a battle skill, who knows what else he may have.”

“This Wu Yun is also very complicated. I hope that he has no major power backing him, otherwise the clans chasing him will suffer miserably.”

“Ai, every man is innocent, but envying another’s treasure is a

crime.” The city lord let out another breath as he spoke out another command, “Let every guardsmen know, this group is not to be obstructed”

“Yes!”

.....

Jian Chen quickly ran through the streets toward the city gates. Phoenix City occupied a large area with many hidden places, even the number of spies was great. To stay behind in Phoenix City would not be a wise decision, and so the only remaining solution was to escape from the city and run into the countryside. Therefore Jian Chen would need to continue to run for a little longer.

The various wounds on Jian Chen’s body continued to bleed and stained his clothes red. At that moment he didn’t have time to deal with his injuries, he just needed to hurry up and escape from the city.

Jian Chen dashed through the streets violently without stopping for a single moment. With each leap he flew from the ground to the buildings in rapid succession. Already his speed had far surpassed that of a low leveled magical beast and the other low leveled magical beasts meant for transporting people on the streets.

Although he was already traveling at a fast pace, the group of Great Saint Masters weren’t any slower than Jian Chen. They

weren't fully aware of how Jian Chen could move so fast, but they could make up for it with their superior Saint Force.

“Wu Yun, you cannot escape! If you don't wish to die, then stop and wait for us obediently!”

A Great Saint Master called out from behind with a loud shout. Although there were a few others shouting, this one man had been even louder. His voice could easily shatter the eardrums of anyone with sensitive hearing that was in close proximity to him.

The 30 Great Saint Masters relentlessly chased Jian Chen through various streets, their shouts attracting the curiosity of many people. Each person began to reach a grinding halt as they turned to look in the direction of the commotion.

That would be the group of 30 Great Saint Masters.

A single middle aged man stared at the fleeing figure of Jian Chen before muttering, “This Wu Yun is incredibly fast. If the situation continues on like this, then our chances of catching up to him in a short moment will be nearly impossible.” After that, he turned his head to look at the man next to him, “Third eldest, among our group, I'm afraid only you are able to catch up to Wu Yun. We can't allow him to run away, so it would be best if you went to obstruct him.”

The one called third eldest was wearing a red-colored robe and looked neither fat or skinny. Although he was in his middle ages, his outward appearance made him look rather young. In fact, the

one called third eldest was rather handsome and very confident.

Hearing that, third eldest concentrated on the retreating figure ahead of them before recalling the memories of when Jian Chen had killed a few Great Saint Masters with a small amount of hesitation in his eyes.

“Second brother, while this Wu Yun has the strength of a Peak Saint Master, he has a battle skill. Did you not see how he had just killed a few Great Saint Masters? I am but one person, and that will not be enough to fight him.” Just thinking about how Jian Chen had slaughtered those Great Saint Masters made the third eldest’s heart beat wildly.

“Third eldest, although you only have the strength of a Primary Great Saint Master, don’t forget that you have the wind Saint Force. You have the superiority in speed. Even though Wu Yun outranks the rest of us with speed so that we have to proceed with caution, you are the antithesis to him.” The middle aged man said.

“Second brother, although I have the wind Saint Force, my familiarity with the winds is rather low. If Jian Chen’s speed were to be compared to mine, then he would undoubtedly be faster than me.” The third eldest said unconfidently.

The middle aged man let out a sigh, his third eldest was extremely afraid of dying, so he spoke unhappily, “Third eldest, can you not see how so many of us are chasing this Wu Yun? All you need to do is to distract him for some time, if Wu Yun gets trapped by us once more, then he will find it difficult to escape. Then, after we finish, you will be the first one to take Wu Yun’s

Space Belt and then you will make your escape. With your speed combined with your total strength, no one here will be able to catch up to you.”

Even with those words, the third eldest still hesitated for some time before replying, “Fine then. Second brother, I will go block Wu Yun, but you all must immediately come to help me.”

“Don’t worry, third eldest. With this many people, we’ll be able to take that battle skill, so we will have to rely on you for everything else.” The middle aged man slapped the third eldest on the shoulder with some excitement. In his mind, if this plan were to succeed, then the battle skill and the two Class 5 Monster Cores would end up in his hands.

Jian Chen had already been running through the streets using all his strength making his speed comparable to a horse beast.. In a short moment, he had already traveled 40 kilometers of road, making the gates to the city loom ever so closely.

At that moment from the front of the group of Great Saint Masters, a cyan colored light suddenly shone everywhere as the figure of a man was suddenly enveloped by it. His speed abruptly intensified as he instantly flew far beyond the group toward Jian Chen.

The strange event that had happened behind him was not lost on Jian Chen. Turning his head back to look, his face suddenly changed, “How unfortunate, there was a man with wind attributed Saint Force within their group, how troublesome this will be.”

Chapter 188: To Fight And Escape

A person with Wind Saint Force would hold the superiority in speed. If one were a wind attributed Great Saint Master, even an Earth Saint Master wouldn't be able to compare with their speed. While Jian Chen himself wasn't an ordinary person, he was only a Peak Saint Master which was already lower than a Peak Great Saint Master by a large gap. If he were to compare speed against a wind attributed person, then there would be no way to escape.

In less than a second, the wind attributed Great Saint Master flew toward Jian Chen with a large gust of wind covering and forming into the shape of a large sword. Instantly, that cyan colored sword had reached the back of Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's eyes narrowed. There was 500 meters separating him and the group behind him until this man came forward. Before the rest of the Great Saint Masters could reach him, he would need to quickly take care of this wind attributed person. If he didn't then there would be no doubt that he would be stuck in between them all once more, making another escape unlikely.

The Light Wind Sword instantaneously appeared in his right hand as he instantly shot a sharp amount of Sword Qi toward that man.

“Ding!”

When the layer of wind attributed Saint Force made contact with the sharp amount of Sword Qi, the amount of Saint Force coming

from both sides instantly repelled each other in such a way that was visible to everyone. The shockwave rippled through to the buildings and caused spiderwebs of cracks to appear. Even the stalls selling monster cores suffered from the wave of energy that had been created.

“Oh my, there’s a fight happening...”

“A cyan colored light, that’s the sign of a wind attributed person...”

“Hurry up and hide, these two are experts! In the case someone gets injured, it’ll be one of us!”

“The guardsmen will be here quickly...”

.

The two men battled and quickly caused the street they were on to become disarrayed. A few of the weaker men instantly tried to move further away to avoid getting hurt.

Jian Chen’s Light Wind Sword stabbed forward quickly with a hazy glow to distort the path of the weapon. In this small moment, it was imperative that he killed this wind attributed man quickly.

Unfortunately, this wind attributed Great Saint Master wasn’t as easy to kill as the other Great Saint Masters. Even under the flurry of stabs, this Great Saint Master was exceptionally difficult to fight

against. Although he wasn't fighting as flustered as the rest, Jian Chen was still fighting at an extremely fast speed either way. Even more so, this wind attributed Great Saint Master was only trying to stall Jian Chen, and so with the man trying to defend himself so adamantly, Jian Chen found it difficult to kill him.

With this delay, the large group of Great Saint Masters had almost caught up to him. Seeing how rapidly the group was coming toward him, Jian Chen bit his lips and gave up trying to fight. His legs turned around and dashed toward the city gates once more.

Once Jian Chen began to run, the Wind attributed man immediately began to chase after him so that Jian Chen wouldn't have a good chance to escape. With this, it was easy for Jian Chen to get encircled once more.

“Wu Yun, let's see you try and escape from us this time!”

The group of Great Saint Masters weren't from the same side, but for the sake of capturing Jian Chen, they had all joined forces. Not only were there some men on the ground, but some were standing on top of the roofs incase Jian Chen tried to run through the sky again.

Seeing the amount of Great Saint Masters circling him, Jian Chen's face took on a serious expression as he prepared to defend himself against the multitudes of men by each sides of the streets before charging into a restaurant.

“Shua shua shua!”

The figures of a few men began to flicker as a few more Great Saint Masters followed him into the restaurant while the rest of the men stayed outside.

Within the restaurant, a slender blade suddenly flew toward those that entered the moment they crossed into the building.

“Careful!”

Although someone had realized the incoming attack, the sword was coming at an extremely fast speed. Adding onto the fact that everyone had expected Jian Chen to try and continue to escape instead of ambushing them inside the restaurant, not a single one of them was able to react or dodge.

“Pch!”

The Light Wind Sword stabbed into the throat of another Great Saint Master, killing him. Then, Jian Chen pulled out the sword and immediately began to battle with the others once more.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The tables within the restaurant were knocked around and became extremely damaged. Since right now wasn't a time for patrons to eat, the restaurant was almost absolutely empty. Aside from a few waitresses, the rest of the patrons were scattered about

randomly. When they saw the restaurant get invaded and Jian Chen ambush the Great Saint Masters, each of them instantly stood up to get far away.

Jian Chen started to fight with another Great Saint Master by the narrow doorway. Since it wasn't as hectic as when a group of men were all fighting him at the same time, Jian Chen found this to be much easier.

“Honored Uncles, please take your fight outside. This restaurant can't handle a fight like this!” A flowery uniformed person wailed with a face full of shock. It was a waitress who had ran and hid under a nearby table.

“Boom bang!”

Just then, another two explosions could be heard as the wall to the restaurant suddenly collapsed and a group of Great Saint Masters began to flow into the building with the intent to kill.

Jian Chen became startled at this as the restaurant suddenly gained another few Great Saint Masters, making the numbers equate to ten men that entered with him. If he were to continue fighting he would be straining himself. Ceasing his fighting, his feet stomped on the ground before propelling himself through to the wooden floor of the second story.

“Chase him!”

The 10 Great Saint Masters immediately followed Jian Chen through the hole he made to the second story.

As they arrived on the second story, before they could even take in the scenery around them, a minute sword suddenly stabbed through their necks from behind.

Then with another flash of silver, the sword stabbed through the front of another man's throat.

In an instant, Jian Chen had capitalized on the opportunity to kill two people. In the following moment, the others finally realized what was happening as they saw the two men fall to the ground with cold sweat. Their hearts began to feel a secret amount of joy as they thought themselves lucky that Jian Chen hadn't chosen them as his initial targets. Otherwise, it could have been them lying on the floor instead of those two.

“Right now I've only about half of my Saint Force left. If I were to go all out right now, it won't take too long for me to run out. I need to hold on until I can escape but I have to avoid fighting with them as well. If I run out of energy while trying to escape, then today will be the day I die.” Jian Chen planned to himself mentally. Now that everyone was prepared for an attack, he had lost the element of surprise.

So if he were to try to try a sneak attack again, it wouldn't work as well as the first time. They would only fall for it once, not twice.

With that, Jian Chen immediately broke out of the restaurant

into the courtyard before dashing toward a nearby well.

Chapter 189: Escaping From A Critical Situation

Just as Jian Chen reached the entrance, a white colored glow of light suddenly burst from the second story towards Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's sword arm stabbed into the white object. The item suddenly exploded upon contact and captured Jian Chen within its shroud.

Jian Chen wasn't worried at all and allowed the white powder to fall upon him. With his Thousand Immunity despite its incomplete state, he wasn't afraid of any toxin or poison.

Jian Chen raised an arm above the stone slab before slamming down onto it with a bang. The slab broke into multiple pieces, revealing the entrance beneath it. With no hesitation, Jian Chen immediately jumped into it.

Within the courtyard of the restaurant, more men began to arrive from every direction as they gathered at one spot, totaling 27 men.

From the 30 Great Saint Masters, only 27 of them were left.

“What a cunning person, now that he has jumped in there, we've no way to reach him.” Staring at the opening, an elder spoke out with an ugly expression.

“All of the wells within Phoenix City are interconnected. Every single one of these wells all lead to an underground cavern which stores water where he could escape into any direction he wanted to.” Spoke a dark skinned man. He was a part of the Heiming clan, which was one of the Phoenix City clans so this was a topic that he was rather familiar with.

“Then what do we do now, should we follow him down the well?” An elder spoke with a hesitant voice.

“I would think not. Wu Yun is a Peak Saint Master with a strength that you’ve personally witnessed. We’ve had 3 Great Saint Masters fight together and that still wasn’t enough to defeat him. If we were to go down this well, then our ability to fight as a group would be greatly hindered as well as our line of sight being deeply affected. So entering this well would not only make it impossible for us to grab him, but we would lose many men that way.” A middle aged man said. He wore expensive looking clothes with a golden outline, signifying him as a noble.

A sharp nosed man let out a long sigh as he spoke out reluctantly, “Then are we just going to let him go? He has a battle skill, a high leveled one at that. That battle skill was enough to let a single Peak Saint Master fight the entirety of our group without us being able to capture him.”

“Right, to meet a weak person with a strong battle skill, this is a rare one in a thousand event. We will never come across such an easy target again. In any case, we would be able to understand the secrets behind this battle skill for our clan’s benefits after we take it along with his two Class 5 Monster Cores. Although a monster

core is precious, compared to a battle skill, the difference between the two is too high. Such a profound battle skill is something even the wealthy cannot buy.” A white robed middle aged man said, it was the representative from the Mutian clan.

“That’s correct, this battle skill is something we shouldn’t let go so easily, but Wu Yun has already escaped from us and could be anywhere within Phoenix City. With how large this city is, we’re searching within an endless ocean of people, making this matter extremely complicated. In my eyes, we should take advantage of the fact that he hasn’t gone far yet and chase after him.”

“The terrain below the well isn’t clear, and the visibility is near non existent. We won’t even know where Wu Yun might be waiting to ambush us, so if we take the bait, it’ll be us taking the danger...”

The group quickly descended into a storm of chattering. This battle skill was something everyone coveted and desperately wanted. Although everyone knew that while they were greedy for it, they were also afraid of dying. They were afraid of what they might encounter down in the well, after all; none of them were idiots. Despite the rarity, if they threw away their lives to attain it, then they wouldn’t be able to use this profound skill in death.

Seeing everyone talk among each other, a plain robed elder let out a faint smile as he raised his left hand to reveal a finger wide serpent coiled around the arms within his robe. The elder caressed the snake gently on the head and said confidently, “No need to worry, Wu Yun will not escape from us.”

The reservoir underneath Phoenix City was a natural one that supplied water for each and every well within the city.

At this moment within this very reservoir, a man was swimming through the water streams with the grace of a fish in water. This man was the Jian Chen who was relieved to have escaped from the restaurant.

Now that he was underground, the entire area was pitch black, adding onto the water that blocked his line of sight, Jian Chen was nearly blind.

According to the mental map in his head, Jian Chen was quickly moving in a certain direction in the pitch dark which he estimated to be around a few meters away.

During the days he was in Phoenix City, Jian Chen had studied the environment of the city. His plan to escape had long since been thought out in case he needed to escape from a situation like the one he was just in. Taking use of this plan, he was able to escape into any direction by using the connected paths from the wells so that he could reappear within different parts of the city.

With the fact that Jian Chen was a Peak Saint Master now, the duration in which he could hold his breath was now longer and even more simple than eating dinner. Therefore, holding his breath within the water was not a problem for him.

Jian Chen remained within the reservoir for nearly 6 hours before reaching an area 20 kilometers away from where he had

started. Facing another direction, he began to swim toward a broad passageway and continued up toward the surface.

With his hair still wet with water, Jian Chen took in another breath of air. After spending 6 hours of constant swimming, he was a bit tired. After catching his breath, Jian Chen slapped both palms onto the surface of the water and shot out of the pool like a bullet.

Flying in midair, Jian Chen landed down onto the side of the stream as he tried to shake himself loose of any remaining water droplets. Immediately he began to look around himself carefully.

The area he had surfaced in looked to be a small courtyard with clothes scattered about on poles everywhere. No matter where he looked, not a single person could be found.

“No one’s here. Seems like this is the home of a small family.” Jian Chen shook his hair dry. After cutting his hair with his sword, only a few inches remained.

“I’ve no idea what the situation is like now, but I’m afraid that the native powers here have already hired a few groups to search for me. The distance between here and the restaurant isn’t that far, so I should leave immediately.” Jian Chen’s previous appearance had already been completely washed away in the reservoir below, returning his appearances to his original one. His wet hair had emphasized his already handsome face, adding onto his charm.

Without hesitating, Jian Chen began to use his Saint Force to heat up his body and evaporate the water on it before changing clothes into a new set in his Space Belt. There was no time to clean his wounds other than to wrap them in some bandages. This was the home of someone else after all, there was no telling when the lord of the house would come back. If that lord were to discover a stranger in the back of his home, it would certainly bring a lot of trouble to him.

To avoid such a situation, it would be best to leave immediately.

After all the preparations were made and making sure no one was around, Jian Chen left the area and entered a small alleyway. From there, he entered a crowded street and figured out where he was geographically before heading toward the city gates.

His current appearance wasn't that of Wu Yun, so Jian Chen wasn't worried at all that he would be caught.

Chapter 190: Hundred Mile Tracing Powder

“I’ve heard there was a fight right outside the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House. Who would ever be so outrageous to do this, I do not know, but they must be impatient to die. If they were to be caught by the guardsmen, then the penalty would be severe.”

“That’s right, I’ve heard that as well. It seems like there was a group of people attacking a single person.”

“What do you guys know? I was actually there when it happened, let me tell you. Each one of those fighters were all experts with backgrounds so strong that even the city guards didn’t dare obstruct them. While fighting, not a single guard came to stop the fight.

“Yes yes, I’ve heard that all of them were Great Saint Masters against a single person. That man must be amazing to go against an entire group of Great Saint Masters while killing a few and ultimately running away.”

“For a man so amazing as him to escape an encirclement of Great Saint Masters, could he be an Earth Saint Master?”

.....

Perhaps it was because the fight between Jian Chen and the Great Saint Masters had been so spectacular that the news had traveled so fast. Jian Chen heard multiple people chatting about it.

Jian Chen continued to walk toward the city gates while listening to the people talk, but not too long afterward, a large amount of energy suddenly flew out from behind.

Feeling this strong wave of energy, Jian Chen stopped momentarily before turning his head to look back only to see a large group of people standing on the rooftops of the buildings next to him. Leaping down onto the ground in his direction, Jian Chen saw the familiar faces of some of the Great Saint Masters who had tried to capture him earlier.

Jian Chen's face shook slightly as he suddenly felt a chill go up his spine.

“What's going on, could they have found me? Are they just passing through? Judging from their pace, they're not hurrying anywhere, could they have really found me? No, that's not possible, my appearance isn't similar at all to Wu Yun, there's no way for them to find out it's me.”

There was a suspicious feeling within Jian Chen's heart. Right now, he and Wu Yun were two separate people with different faces. His body didn't have any visible wounds and he didn't look like Wu Yun at all. Even the more visible wounds were hidden by his new clothes on which no tears or holes could be seen.

“Perhaps they're not coming in my direction and have a different matter to take care of. Despite this situation, as long as I don't look frantic or suddenly start to run, I won't be found out.” Jian Chen

thought to himself. Trying to force himself into a calm state, he slowly began to walk toward the city gates once more, but his pace was just marginally faster than when he was originally walking.

It was with great difficulty that he had escaped from the Great Saint Masters, so he didn't wish to be caught again. In this brief moment, Jian Chen didn't waver for a single step and continued forward with a confident face; he wasn't Wu Yun anymore, he was Jian Chen.

Quickly, the Great Saint Masters vaulted over the buildings in the direction of Jian Chen without slowing down in the slightest.

At this, Jian Chen's heart leapt to his throat, but these men fortunately didn't see his visible reaction.

Suddenly, the moment an elder passed by Jian Chen, his face changed expressions abruptly as he turned his head to look at Jian Chen from within the crowd. "I've found him, he's over here, surround him quickly!" Before he could even finish talking, another group of men suddenly fell down around Jian Chen within 5 meters in tight vigilance.

Even though their opponent was merely a Peak Saint Master, this Great Saint Master elder didn't dare to belittle him after personally witnessing how Jian Chen had killed many Great Saint Masters.

The other Great Saint Masters ahead of the elder immediately turned around and ran toward him to get into position, quickly surrounding Jian Chen.

This sudden development stunned Jian Chen. His face darkened as he slowly cupped together his hands with a faint smile, “Fellow brothers, this one asks what meaning this is...” Jian Chen’s heart didn’t think that his identity would have been found out so quickly as he was extremely confident in his ability to disguise himself. His new appearance was no longer the 40 year old man and was completely different from the one he had used for Wu Yun. Even his hair had been meticulously trimmed so that it wasn’t similar at all to Wu Yun.

The 20 Great Saint Masters looked at the clearly 20 year old Jian Chen’s appearance with some doubt.

“Elder He Mu, isn’t this the wrong person?” A white robed middle aged man said.

“That’s right, Elder He Mu, you must have found the wrong person, how is this Wu Yun?” Another white robed man spoke. His voice was muffled as he was filled with doubt.

The one called Elder He Mu stared at Jian Chen firmly with some doubt in his own eye. Secretly, he thought to himself, “Could I have found the wrong person?” As this thought flashed through his head, a small slender looking snake suddenly came out from the elder’s robes. With its head held high it began to spit out venom toward Jian Chen.

At this, Elder He Mu looked surprised as he cried out at disbelief from seeing the reaction of his snake to a 20 year old youth, “You

are Wu Yun!”

Upon this shout, the other Great Saint Masters each had a look of shock and disbelief as they tried to make the connection between Jian Chen and Wu Yun.

“Elder He Mu, are you sure you didn’t find the wrong person?” A red robed elder tried to confirm.

Elder He Mu didn’t bother to answer the other elder and instead looked at Jian Chen with a sneer, “Wu Yun, this change in your appearance is truly massive. To a point that not a single one of us could recognize you, but no matter how much you change your appearance, you cannot escape my Spirit Snake’s sense of smell.”

Jian Chen’s face grew serious as he listened to the elder. The opposing side clearly had some secret method to identify him, so he wasn’t able to avoid suspicion now.

Hearing the confident Elder He Mu, the 20 Great Saint Masters all felt extremely astonished, but they didn’t delay any longer and took out their Saint Weapons while waiting for Jian Chen to make a move.

Jian Chen looked around himself before asking elder He Mu, “What did you use to find me?”

Elder He Mu looked proud as he spoke, “There’s no harm in telling you. When you first fought with us at the restaurant, I

sprayed you with a special type of medicinal powder. With this Spirit Snake, it can easily detect that smell within a thousand meters so tracking you was easy.”

Jian Chen then realized his mistake, “Even after dropping into the water, I was unable to wash off this powder?”

“Hmph, you belittle my special Hundred Mile Tracing Powder. My special Hundred Mile Tracing Powder isn’t something a little amount of water could easily wash away. If one does not use the special drug to bathe in beforehand, then it’ll take a week for the powder to lose effect.” Elder He Mu bragged.

Chapter 191: No Survivors

“So it was like that.” Jian Chen’s expression grew dark as he listened to elder He Mu. According to what Elder He Mu said, since his body had been sprayed with the Thousand Meter Tracing Powder, as long as he was within a hundred miles of this Elder He Mu, it would be impossible for him to run away.

With this, Jian Chen’s eye gained a killing glow as he didn’t spare any more time to talk. The Light Wind Sword appeared in his right hand as he suddenly flew toward the elder to stab him.

The elder had a grin on his face as he watched Jian Chen’s sudden movement. He had long anticipated this explosive start and immediately revealed a meter long scepter in his hand to block Jian Chen’s sword.

“Everyone forward! Be careful this time and don’t let him get away again.”

Just as Jian Chen started to move, the other 20 Great Saint Masters simultaneously bolted into action as they jumped at Jian Chen with their Saint Weapons ready to strike.

The Light Wind Sword exploded with Sword Qi as it enhanced the sharpness of the blade and enshrouded it in a hazy glow of light that masked its position. Next, the Light Wind Sword disappeared in a flurry of shadows as a series of sword trials began to throw out Sword Qi everywhere.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!...

The sounds of metal clashing could be heard as the amount of Sword Qi from Jian Chen's sword spread over the earth and kicked up a cloud of dust.

From the 20 Great Saint Masters that moved at him, 8 of them waved their Saint Weapons in an effort to slash through the cloud of dust. The other 12 carefully readied their weapons in case Jian Chen ran away again.

Just as the 8 Great Saint Weapons cut through the cloud of dust, suddenly, a silver glow of light came from within at an incredibly fast speed. It almost seemed as if it were flying. By itself, it flew around the 8 men before disappearing from sight leaving behind a small trace of blood on each their necks.

At the same time, the 8 Great Saint Masters suddenly grew stiff. The red line grew darker on their necks before all of a sudden a fountain of blood splurged out from their necks and they collapsed to the ground.

The silver glow of light disappeared back within the dust cloud as Jian Chen ignored those Great Saint Masters and ran straight for Elder He Mu.

“Yin!”

The Light Wind Sword carried a strong amount of Sword Qi that

whistled while moving through the air. The tip of the sword emitted a strange sound as it stabbed toward Elder He Mu.

Elder He Mu had already been expecting Jian Chen's attack, and so at the most crucial moment, the elder's face maintained an impassive expression as he flew backward and turned his body to the side to avoid damage. At the same time, the scepter came up to block the sword.

“Ding!”

The scepter and the Light Wind Sword collided together with a loud crash. Following the collision, Jian Chen immediately slid the sword down the scepter and slashed horizontally at the elder.

“Pch!”

The sharp tip of the Light Wind Sword swiped against He Mu's throat. Although he was a Great Saint Master, under the might of Jian Chen's strength, he too had been killed.

Suddenly, a large sword came from behind and slashed at Jian Chen's back. Jian Chen staggered a few steps forward from the sudden blow as a half meter long wound appeared on his back. A wave of blood violently surged from the wound and quickly stained his clothes a bloody red.

Upon seeing the wound on Jian Chen, everyone's eyes brightened as they charged toward Jian Chen. Immediately a few

of them flew toward Jian Chen with their Saint Weapons ready to slash at him.

“So you all wish to die, then I will help accomplish that for you.” Jian Chen’s face grew fierce as he felt the wound on his back. Not only did this wound bring about a huge impact on his fighting strength, but there wasn’t much of his Saint Force left. If he wanted to run, then he would have to reveal his final trump card.

Suddenly, a strong amount of Sword Qi started to flow from his Light Wind Sword as it left his hand and became a streak of silver light that smashed against the 3 Saint Weapons attacking him.

“Ding ding ding...”

Three sounds of metal hitting metal rang in the air as the Light Wind Sword sped through the air quickly and smashed against each of the Saint Weapons. Immediately, all 3 Saint Weapon owners were sent staggering backward with pale faces as they stared in shock at the floating Saint Weapon. Already, a small nick could be seen on their Saint Weapons.

Although it was a small wound, these 3 men all felt that this attack had been immense. Their own Saint Weapons had even been damaged. Since the Saint Weapons were linked to their owners, they would be able to feel an immense amount of damage from their weapons.

“Shou!”

The Light Wind Sword shrieked as it traveled through the sky toward the men at the front with an inconceivable speed that couldn't be seen.

Under the control of Jian Chen, the Light Wind Sword dodged the Saint Weapons of the 20 men and struck at their throats.

Pch! Pch! Pch!...

In a single moment, there were 7 corpses with a single wound on their neck. At this, the remaining men all had a surprised look on their faces as they brandished their weapons in order to block Jian Chen's sword.

“Bastard! What kind of attack is this, how can a sword fly by itself at such a fast speed?” Blocking another strike from the sword, a rapidly paling elder couldn't help but curse out loud as he clenched his Saint Weapon. Despite his attempts to block the sword, he had already received a few minute wounds.

After seeing the Light Wind Sword fly by itself in mid air, everyone had a shocked expression on their faces as they watched this inconceivable event.

Against Jian Chen's Spirit Sword, the other Great Saint Masters didn't even have enough time to breathe before a few of them had quickly died. On the ground, there were already 20 victims who had died by a strike to the throat.

At this moment, the remaining Great Saint Masters were all frightened. Without any more care, they all began to quickly escape from Jian Chen at full speed. Among them was the wind Saint Force Great Saint Master who had enveloped himself in his cyan colored Saint Force and quickly traversed 100 meters away.

“Shou!”

Jian Chen didn't plan on letting them go; the Light Wind Sword disappeared in a streak of light as it chased after the wind Saint Force Great Saint Master. In the end, even he too fell victim to a slash to the throat.

After killing him, the Light Wind Sword immediately turned around and chased after the remaining people.

The speed at which the Light Wind Sword was moving was incomparably fast; the remaining Great Saint Masters couldn't help but ultimately die by Jian Chen's sword.

Of the 30 Great Saint Masters, not a single one remained.

Chapter 192: Meeting Another Strong Enemy

The corpses of twenty Great Saint Masters lay strewn across the ground, their blood dying the streets crimson. The surrounding people stared with wide eyes at the dim-eyed corpses and the bloody Jian Chen with shock. No one had expected to come across such a fight.

Many of these observers were regular commoners, but they could easily tell that these twenty corpses used to be Great Saint Masters. When these twenty Great Saint Masters gathered, their unbelievable might had swept across Phoenix City. But no one had thought that so many Great Saint Masters would die in the hands of a single youth, who was not even over the age of 25, in a single moment.

If they hadn't witnessed this scene with their own eyes, they probably wouldn't have believed the situation no matter what. But despite what they had seen, many of them still couldn't believe it and thought it to be an illusion, rather than reality. The scene was just that hard to believe.

Jian Chen's eyes slowly wandered to the twenty bodies on the ground, his breathing still erratic. After so many battles in such a short amount of time, his Saint Force had taken a huge loss, causing him to feel exhausted.

Jian Chen knew that staying here wasn't wise. The Class 5 Magical Beast had attracted many people to Phoenix City, and made the situation very chaotic. Although there were some people

with decent strength on the surface, Jian Chen was more afraid that some mercenary groups and strong wayfarers target him from the dark. After all, Jian Chen was heavily injured and was no longer in his peak state. In addition to the enticing allure of a Class 5 Monster Core and a battle skill, this chance could tempt anyone.

Now that he had finished this test and killed multiple Great Saint Masters with his Spirit Sword, his spirit had been greatly diminished to his current state. Right now, Phoenix City was even more dangerous than the countryside.

Then, Jian Chen's eyes accidentally landed on the Great Saint Masters' Space Belts, and his eyes lit up. Immediately using the Light Wind Sword to pick at the Space Belts, he quickly collected all of them from the corpses; but what made him happier was that while taking the Space belts, he had discovered three Space Rings.

It was not an exaggeration to say that Space Rings were even more precious and useful than Space Belts. Space Rings in the Tian Yuan Continent were symbols of status and strength, unlike Space Belts. No matter how extravagant the Space Belt was, Space Belts were of an inferior grade and were incomparably weaker than a Space Ring.

After the twenty Space Belts and the three Space Rings were collected, Jian Chen didn't waste any time on the remaining people still watching him, and immediately left the area.

Seeing Jian Chen come toward them, the observers immediately awoke from their stupor and scrambled to get out of the way for Jian Chen to pass through.

The Light Wind Sword in Jian Chen's hand was still dripping with blood as he strode out of the crowd. His presence was so terrifying that anyone within his vicinity hurriedly scrambled away as far as possible. Despite Jian Chen's young appearance, nobody dared to underestimate him.

It was only when Jian Chen arrived at a Class 1 Magical Beast mount that he stopped. Taking out a few purple coins, he handed it to the owner and spoke coldly, "Sell me your mount." Without even waiting for a response, he immediately jumped onto the magical beast and pulled at the reins, heading full speed toward the city gates.

The owner of the Class 1 Magical Beast mount was only a Saint Master, but he had witnessed Jian Chen killing the twenty Great Saint Masters. So when Jian Chen spoke rudely to him, he didn't dare speak arrogantly back.

Even if Jian Chen hadn't paid him the amount a Class 1 Magical Beast was worth, the man wouldn't have dared to complain.

Sitting on top of the mount, Jian Chen flew over the roads with a blinding speed that quickly took him to the base of the city gates.

Jian Chen fortunately hadn't come across any obstructions along the way. Although there were many powerful clans within Phoenix City, there were also many strong mercenary groups and solo mercenaries that would want in on the items that Jian Chen possessed. A Class 5 Monster Core and a battle skill were treasures

that were far too tempting to be ignored. However, after realizing that thirty Great Saint Masters had met their deaths at the hands of this person, they felt as if a bucket of cold water had been dumped on their heads, and they immediately renounced their plans to fight him.

In the distance, one of the guards on top of the city gates saw a bloody figure riding a Class 1 Magical Beast, and immediately cried out to his fellow guards. The city gates began to creak open to allow Jian Chen to exit, as they had already received orders from the city lord to do so.

Within the heart of the city, the lord of Phoenix City hoped that Jian Chen would be able to safely depart from the city. If Jian Chen were to stay here, he would ultimately attract the attention of many powerful clans that the city lord desperately didn't wish to offend.

Seeing the city gates open, Jian Chen continued at his usual speed before finally rushing through the gates to the shock of everyone watching.

The moment he left the city gates, Jian Chen let out a breath of air in relief. To him, the countryside was much safer, as he wouldn't come across a near infinite amount of harassment. Excluding the powers from Phoenix City, who knew how strong those from the countryside would be? Whether or not there was a high leveled Earth Saint Master hiding in wait, after killing all those Great Saint Masters, the powers he had offended would definitely not take this lying down. To stay in Phoenix City would mean to face off against a multitude of troubles.

“Hehe, sire Wu Yun has an amazing talent, and you’re strong despite being so young. This must be the power of that battle skill.” Despite Jian Chen’s fast movements, an elderly voice could be heard speaking to Jian Chen from close by.

Hearing that, Jian Chen’s face paled as he turned his head to look behind. A figure was rapidly approaching him from five kilometers away at a speed much faster than Jian Chen’s.

“Damn it!” Jian Chen’s face grew even paler as he realized that judging from the man’s speed, his strength was probably much stronger than that of a Great Saint Master.

Chapter 193: Confrontation With An Earth Saint Master

“Sire, could it be that you are after my two Class 5 Monster Cores as well?” Jian Chen’s voice loudly echoed through the plains.

“Heh, while a Class 5 Monster Core is truly precious, I have no interest in it. Wu Yun, I desire your battle skill; give it to me, and I won’t trouble you anymore.” The elder called back to him from behind, his voice was loud and clear.

In just the time it took to take two deep breaths, the elderly man, who was 5 kilometers behind Jian Chen, was now 4 kilometers behind him.

Seeing the elder’s terrifyingly fast speed, Jian Chen’s face grew serious as he threw away his hesitation. He leapt off of his mount and began to run. Although this would use his Saint Force even faster, riding a magical beast was much slower than running. If he were to continue to ride the magical beast, then this elder would catch up to him eventually.

Jian Chen continued to run at full speed despite feeling the intense burn of the wound on his back from earlier. As his heart twinged in pain, his muscles also throbbed, causing his face to grow even paler. On his forehead, droplets of sweat began to form.

If it were just a simple slash on his back, Jian Chen wouldn’t feel so anguished. However now that his body was moving so violently, the wound on his back was constantly being forced to tear and

stretch, causing wave after wave of pain to test his nerves.

Jian Chen couldn't help but feel the pain from his back wounds as he ran forward as fast as possible. Although he hadn't fought with this elder yet, he had a feeling that this man would be unprecedentedly dangerous.

The elder behind him was undoubtedly strong beyond belief.

Seeing Jian Chen run even faster, the elder chasing him couldn't help but sneer, "Wu Yun, you are only wasting your energy, you cannot escape me." With that, the elder began to speed up as well and flew closer to Jian Chen.

Four kilometers....

Three kilometers....

Two kilometers....

The elder was unbelievably fast. In a short moment, he had shortened the distance from five kilometers to a single kilometer. Even with Jian Chen going as fast as he could, this was not enough to throw off the elder.

With so much Saint Force being used to aid his escape, he was already at a critically low level. Finally, the elder was less than 500 meters away from him; in the end, Jian Chen could only stop and turn around to confront the elder.

Seeing Jian Chen stop, the elder slowed down his pace as well, before stopping 20 meters away. His face still had a kind smile, but his eyes were full of a curious yet surprised color as he looked at Jian Chen.

“Ah, Wu Yun probably isn’t your real name, but that is of no importance to me. However, being able to kill 30 Great Saint Masters with only the strength of a Peak Saint Master really astonished me.” The elder’s face had a small smile on it.

Hearing the elder’s kind voice, Jian Chen’s brows furrowed. The sound of his voice was vaguely familiar, but he had no idea where he had heard it from.

Then, a moment of realization flashed within Jian Chen’s mind as he suddenly recalled a person. He said in a low voice, “Elder, if my guess is correct, you are from the Harido clan in Loess City.” Jian Chen had a deep impression of the Harido clan, as they were one of the top 10 clans that had appeared within the Heavenly Phoenix Auction House. The Harido clan was the clan that had purchased the first Class 5 Magical Beast body without being contested for it. In the end, the Harido clan had only spent 10,000 purple coins for a single magical beast body.

From that moment, Jian Chen knew clearly that the Harido clan had a terrifying amount of power. At the very least, even the clans far away from the Harido clan were afraid of the hegemon that was the Harido clan.

The elder nodded his head, “That’s correct, this old man is a part of the Harido clan. Wu Yun, I only desire the battle skill you have; the two Class 5 Monster Cores, I care not for.”

Seeing Jian Chen’s eyes flash, the elder snorted and continued, “Wu Yun, you should hand over the battle skill. This old man won’t be as easy to deal with as those Great Saint Masters. Against an Earth Saint Master, you have no hope of escaping from me with your Peak Saint Master strength.”

“Earth Saint Master!” Hearing this, Jian Chen gasped. Although he had guessed the elder’s strength to be at the Earth Saint Master earlier, that had only been a guess. Now that the elder personally verified it, he could now state this to be a fact. This elder in front of him was truly an Earth Saint Master.

Sucking in another breath, Jian Chen quickly calmed himself, “Senior, if I don’t have a battle skill, would you believe me?”

The elder’s smile suddenly froze as his eyes grew cold and a small amount of killing intent leaked out, “Wu Yun, my patience has a limit. I don’t have long to squabble with you, so hurry up and hand over the battle skill. Otherwise, I will force it out of you.” With this, the elder’s voice paused momentarily as a small sneer took control of his facial features, “If you really don’t have a battle skill on you, that makes no difference to me, you will come back with me to the Harido clan and write it down for me. You will also write about how you can control your Saint Weapon to fly in midair.”

Hearing the elder, Jian Chen’s heart skipped a beat. There was no margin of leeway here; unless he handed over a battle skill, this

Earth Saint Master elder would not let him leave this area. As it was now, only a fight to the death would be the best way of escaping this place with his life.

Jian Chen's heart knew that even if this elder wanted to kill him, he wouldn't dare try to do so before obtaining the battle skill. This made Jian Chen feel truly helpless; he didn't have a battle skill at all; the others had only mistaken his Law of Ziqing to be a battle skill.

Having reached a decision, Jian Chen didn't hesitate any longer. His legs abruptly pushed off the ground, quickly sending his body flying backwards.

Recognizing Jian Chen's actions, the elder had a face of disdain on it as he too, simultaneously flew toward Jian Chen's direction, with both of his hands stretching out toward Jian Chen's neck.

The Light Wind Sword instantly appeared in Jian Chen's hand. Against this Earth Saint Master, Jian Chen couldn't hold back. He would have to use his hidden trump card—the Spirit Sword.

The Light Wind Sword became a silver flash of lightning. An ear piercing shriek split through the air as it pierced towards the Earth Saint Master.

Chapter 194: Falling From A Cliff

Highlight above for chapter title

“Hmph, like I said, this old man will not be as easy as those Great Saint Masters.” Seeing the Light Wind Sword fly at him, the elder’s face sneered. His hands that were previously heading toward Jian Chen moved directions and slapped against the sword.

“Pa!”

The elder’s palm slapped firmly against the sword, causing it to veer away 10 meters in a perpendicular direction.

At the same time, the elder’s face had an expression of shock as he looked at his palm only to see that the Light Wind Sword had caused several cuts that filled his palm with blood.

Seeing the injuries on his palm, the elder became distracted and had a look of disbelief. With another deep breath, he stared at Jian Chen with another curious look, but before he could say anything, the Light Wind Sword that had been knocked away came flying back at the elder with a lightning fast pace.

The elder’s face changed once more as he swayed his body to dodge 3 meters to the side. The Light Wind Sword itself had merely stabbed through the position where he last was.

Suddenly, the Light Wind Sword immediately made a revolution

as it passed by the elder and flew straight back at the elder's new position.

The glare in the elder's eyes intensified as his hands filled with a blue colored Saint Force as a hammer appeared.

The steel hammer wasn't large—it was roughly the size of an adult human's chest. It was covered with blue tipped barbs with a two foot handle that had a strange pattern engraved on it.

The elder waved his hammer and smashed it against the Light Wind Sword.

“Ding!”

The steel hammer smashed against the Light Wind Sword with a tremendous force that caused the sword to fly far away with a large sound.

At the same time, Jian Chen let out a small grunt from his throat as his already pale face lost even more color, resembling a piece of paper in whiteness.

“Wu Yun, I'll ask you one last time. Hand over the battle skill. The next time you fight me, I will not hold back.” The elder glared firmly at Jian Chen as he spoke.

In actuality, the elder wasn't sure if there really was a battle skill on Jian Chen. So in the beginning, he didn't dare try and kill Jian

Chen since he knew that as long as Jian Chen was alive but wasn't willing to hand over the battle skill, he could still force him back to the clan where they could force it out of him. If he were to kill him, then there would be no chance of retrieving the battle skill.

Jian Chen stared back at the elder and bit his lip with anger, "Harido clan, I will remember this, do you dare tell me your name?"

The elder sneered with disdain at Jian Chen's words, "What? You still wish to seek revenge? Hmph, for someone who hasn't even reached the Great Saint Master level to want to take revenge on my Harido clan, you are an imbecile. To think you want to know my name, then there's no harm in telling you. Remember this, this old man is called Yan Kaizer."

"Yan Kaizer. I will remember this." Jian Chen spat venomously. Just as he finished speaking, the Light Wind Sword finally came back straight toward the elder once more.

Seeing that Jian Chen had no plans to hand over the battle skill, the glow in the elder's eyes grew cold as he finally lost his final shred of patience. The hammer in his hands exploded with a blue colored Saint Force as he brought it down onto the Light Wind Sword to smash it.

Just as the Light Wind Sword and the steel hammer were about to make contact, the Light Wind Sword's trajectory suddenly made an inconceivable turn almost as if it was a python. Avoiding the hammer, the Light Wind Sword flew straight toward the elder's throat.

At the same time, Jian Chen flew forward like a bullet shot out of a rifle as he continued to run away.

“Hmph, an insignificant achievement.” The elder sneered as he brought the hammer back to block the Light Wind Sword. He brought his entire body to the side half a meter and allowed himself to dodge the sword.

In this small moment, Jian Chen had already moved 50 meters away before using his spirit to call the Light Wind Sword back to his hand.

Seeing Jian Chen already 50 meters away, the elder’s eyes finally released a large amount of killing intent. A mere Saint Master was nothing more than a weak ant in comparison to an Earth Saint Master; a person who he couldn’t be bothered to look at in the eye. Seeing that this ant of a person was running away, this was a disgrace.

“When I capture you you’ll be begging to die!” The elder cried out as he chased Jian Chen.

The speed of an Earth Saint Master was faster than that of Jian Chen. In a short moment, 50 meters of distance had been shortened down to 20 meters.

Then, Jian Chen threw the Light Wind Sword in his hand back at the elder with a stunning speed.

Regarding this attack of Jian Chen, the elder had the strength of an Earth Saint Master, but he still didn't dare disregard it anymore. His body swayed to the side and dodged the sword, but with that action, his speed had been slowed briefly.

The Light Wind Sword turned around in midair and shot straight at the elder once more.

The elder had a look of anger now, the steel hammer in his hand burst with Saint Force as he slammed the hammer down behind him to break the Light Wind Sword.

The Light Wind Sword changed directions once more to avoid the elder's blow.

“Bang!”

The strength behind the elder's blow was tremendous and since he was unable to recall the hammer, the weapon struck against the ground firmly. The accumulated Saint Force within the weapon exploded out and left a two meter wide crater in the ground.

Jian Chen recalled his Light Wind Sword and continued on.

Afterward, Jian Chen would repeat this process. As he ran forward, he would control his sword so that it would delay the elder's forward progress.

This continued for almost two hours up a large mountain, but ultimately, Jian Chen had no other option but to stop since he had reached the edge of a cliff.

After this wild dash to escape along with using his spirit to delay the elder with his sword, Jian Chen was utterly exhausted. If it were not for his tremendous willpower to support him, he would have long since collapsed. After all, using the Spirit Sword consumed a large amount of his energy.

Right now, Jian Chen's clothes were already wet with his sweat and the back with his blood. because of this waste of spirit, Jian Chen was beginning to feel dizzy almost as if he hadn't slept for a week, at the moment, he wanted nothing more but to sleep.

"Damn it all, this is a cliff!" Forcing himself to stay upright, Jian Chen looked beyond the cliff with a heavy heart. In his eyes, there was already a look of despair.

Death he was not afraid of. It was just that he didn't wish to die like this. Besides, in this world, he still had a mother he loved dearly and his two siblings that cared deeply for him, Changyang Hu and Changyang Mingyue.

"Disgraceful being, you can die already!"

At this moment, a thunderous voice boomed out from behind him. Turning around, Jian Chen could only see the elder come straight at him with the steel hammer right about to collide with his back.

“Bang!”

Since Jian Chen was utterly exhausted, he had no energy to dodge the elder’s blow. In the end, he could only be sent flying over the cliff and into the abyss below.

Seeing Jian Chen disappear from sight, the elder’s face suddenly became blank. The anger in his head suddenly cleared away as he gained clarity over his situation. At this moment, he had finally taken notice of the steep cliff side in front of him,

“There was a cliff here?! I...I hit him down the cliff! It’s over... my...my battle skill...” Seeing the terrain below, the elder’s expression turned remorseful.

Chapter 195: Escaping From Calamity

Jian Chen lifted a heavy eyelid, only to see the blurry figure over him start to clear up. The very first thing to register in his mind was the earthen color of a roof tile over his head. There was a crack on this tile and it had cobwebs with spiders crawling all over. They were enjoying the insects that had stumbled into their webs.

Jian Chen ignored the movements of the spiders as he turned his head to look around himself. All he could see was the interior of the room he lay in with a few dark, shadowy spots. However, he could still make out the small arrangements in the room.

The room was rather simple in terms of arrangements. Aside from the decades-old wooden table and stools, there was nothing else. On the floor, if it wasn't covered by slabs of marble, there were patches of earth to make up the rest of the ground.

“What is this place?!” Seeing the environment he was in, Jian Chen grew suspicious despite being so tired. Immediately becoming aware of the pain in his head, the memories of what had just happened to him before he fell immediately came crashing into his mind like a tidal wave.

Jian Chen could remember that he had been sent flying down the cliff by the Earth Saint Master. He landed in a body of water below and lost consciousness there, but what happened after, he had no idea.

“I didn't die, so I must have been saved by someone.” Jian Chen

quickly came to a conclusion with a small wave of happiness. At first, he had thought that he had died; he had not expected to live after falling down the cliff.

“The Harido clan and the other clans that attacked me in Phoenix City; I, Jian Chen, will not forgive this.” The memories continued to flow into Jian Chen’s head as a furious hatred empowered the glow in his eyes. Both of his hands clenched tightly as he repeated the names and committed them to heart.

As Jian Chen stretched his body, a wave of pain came coursing through his body and he couldn’t help but let out a small grunt of pain before turning pale.

As the pain passed, Jian Chen took in a deep breath. As he lay on the bed, he focused on his body and realized he was only wearing some simple clothing. Other than that, he could also feel that all of his wounds on his body had been bandaged up.

Then Jian Chen’s eyes landed on his waist and came to a startling realization; his Space Belt was missing.

“Where is my Space Belt?” Jian Chen began to panic a bit. All of his belongings, including the Bi clan heirloom given to him by his mother and the Space Ring given to him by his father, were inside it. He also had tens of thousands of purple coins stored within his Space Belt; if he were to lose his Space Belt, then his life would be gone as well.

Plus, the Space Belt also had his Class 4 and Class 5 Monster

Cores. Those were the most crucial things for his cultivation.

Jian Chen's panicked eyes spread all over the room as he tried to scan for his Space Belt. However he was only greeted with disappointment as he couldn't find a single trace of the Space Belt.

Before he could think any further about his Space Belt, a pair of footsteps could be heard walking toward his room. The wooden door slid open as a short pants-wearing man walked in.

The man had a simple look to him that made him seem rather average. As the middle-aged man strode into the room, he looked at the awake Jian Chen with a smile. "You've finally awakened. You've been asleep for two whole nights. If it weren't for the fact that you were still breathing, I would have thought you were dead."

Jian Chen looked at the man and asked, "Where is my Space Belt?"

Seeing the frantic expression on Jian Chen's face, the man laughed gently before walking to the adjacent side of the room where a cupboard was. Reaching out to open it, he took out an ordinary looking Space Belt and walked back to Jian Chen. "Your Space Belt is right here. Youngster, don't worry, I have not touched your items at all." He then slid the Space Belt toward him.

Taking the Space Belt back, Jian Chen immediately looked over his things before realizing his more important things hadn't been touched and sighed in relief.

Looking back to the man, Jian Chen had a softer expression as he spoke, “Are you the one that rescued me?”

The man sat down on a stool by Jian Chen’s bed and laughed. “Two days ago, I went to the river to fish, only to see your bloody body float on by. Since you weren’t dead, I just had to bring you back.”

“This one thanks you for saving me.” Jian Chen had an extremely grateful look as he spoke with pure honesty.

The man nodded his head, “No need to thank me, youngster. You truly have a tremendous willpower; seeing the heavy wounds on you, I surely thought you would be dead. The wound on your back itself was so deep that the bones could be seen. I’ve lived a long life, but I have never seen such an injury on a person still breathing.”

“Ah, yes, youngster, you’ve been asleep for two whole days. You must be hungry. Let me go get you some food to eat.” The man spoke out.

Jian Chen nodded his head, “Then I’ll be counting on uncle.” After two whole days of abstaining from food, Jian Chen was rather hungry.

After that, the man handed Jian Chen a bowl of rice with a side dish of meat. After eating, the hunger in Jian Chen’s stomach was satisfied. Still, he felt tired, so the man left him to sleep.

After the man left, Jian Chen closed his eyes and slowly tried to regain the spirit that he had used up. When he was chased by the elder, Jian Chen's Spirit Sword had taken up an extreme amount of his spirit. Although he had two days to rest, Jian Chen had made only recovered a minimal amount. It was nothing major at all.

Right now, he needed to recover an optimal state of spirit before he could use the Light Saint Force to heal.

As Jian Chen recovered his spirit, the man came to visit a few times. However when Jian Chen "slept", he disturbed him no more.

Quickly, night came as Jian Chen lay in that bed for over four hours without moving at all. Until the next morning, Jian Chen could only close his eyes and try his best to recover his spirit.

After an entire night of recovering, the amount of spirit he had recovered was about eighty percent of normal. However, with the wounds he had received two days prior, if he had not those days of warm temperature and safety, it would have been extremely hard to recover so much spirit at such an optimal pace.

After that, Jian Chen began to use the Light Saint Force to heal his wounds.

Chapter 196: Rosco

The strong milky white light of the light Saint Force enveloped Jian Chen's entire body as its strange glow slowly entered his body. As of that moment, the flesh all over his body was being mended.

Because it was daytime, the light of the light Saint Force was rather hard to see, so Jian Chen wasn't afraid that his secret usage of the light Saint Force would be leaked. Even if someone were to come by, Jian Chen would be instantly notified by their presence to stop the flow of light Saint Force.

By now, Jian Chen's spirit had been fully recovered, so when he began to control the light Saint Force, the amount of time he could control it would definitely be long, and the quality of the light Saint Force would be rich. By the time two hours had passed, Jian Chen was almost fully healed.

However, using the light Saint Force still came at a price. Since he still wasn't in prime condition, using the light Saint Force made him feel rather dizzy and he had the constant feeling of wanting to sleep.

Jian Chen continued to heal himself for the entire day. Waking up again on the second morning, Jian Chen lay in the warmth of the bed to hide his condition.

After all, the man who saved him two days ago saw how seriously injured Jian Chen was. If he were to find out his current condition,

then the nature of Jian Chen's light Saint Force would definitely be revealed to him. Even with the help of medication, a serious wound like the one Jian Chen had received would definitely take longer than two days to heal. For that reason, Jian Chen refused to get off the bed and hid his body underneath the covers. As long as he kept his secret hidden, then no problems would occur.

He knew that Radiant Saint Masters were rare within the Tian Yuan Continent. If this secret was revealed, then he would be constantly troubled by people.

Laying in the bed, Jian Chen silently healed with the use of his light Saint Force. For the past two days the man had given him some herbs to help heal him, but currently, he was all out of Saint Force; the sword within his dantian had been reduced to a darker version as well.

Quickly, the afternoon came and Jian Chen could smell the fragrant scent of a meal wafting into the room.

"Creak!" At that moment, the wooden door to the room slid open and the middle aged man walked into the room, stopping only by the bed.

Seeing the shut eyed Jian Chen, the man let out a breath of air and muttered, "Ai, he's been asleep for another two days without waking up to eat even once. Even with injuries this severe, I'm not too sure how long he'll last. It's truly unfortunate that this poor village isn't able to find any stronger medication."

The man shook his head helplessly before walking back out of the room.

“Uncle!” Suddenly, a weak sounding voice called out from behind. The man went rigid before whirling around to look at Jian Chen and called out joyfully, “Kid, you’ve finally awoken! After falling unconscious again, I was afraid you’d never wake up again.”

Hearing that, Jian Chen smiled, “This one is sorry, I’ve let uncle worry.”

“No worries, as long as you are awake, everything is fine. At the very least your life is still well and safe. That’s right! You haven’t eaten in two days, I’m sure you’re hungry. Let me bring you something to eat.” With that, the man turned and walked out of the room once more.

Quickly, a hot bowl of rice with a plate of meat was presented by the man. “We are only in a small mountainside village, so the best we can normally get is the meat of the wild beasts we find in the mountains. Since you’re injured, it’s best for you to eat some meat to properly heal your body.”

“This one thanks uncle greatly!” Jian Chen slowly climbed up from the bed.

Upon seeing his movements, the man instantly started, “Hey! Don’t move! You’re injured and moving will only make it worse.” With that, his hands put down the meal on the table and went over to support Jian Chen.

Jian Chen smiled, “Although I am injured, after two days of resting, my health has been stabilized. Moving just a little bit is no problem now.”

Seeing how Jian Chen didn’t have a problem sitting up right slowly, the man had a look of admiration on his face. “Youngster, your strength is surely that of a decent standing to be able to sit up so soon after such a grievous wound.”

Jian Chen looked at the man with a deep look, “Uncle, it would appear that you are quite strange yourself. I assume you once traveled the continent before as well?”

“Ai!” The man let out a breath of air as if Jian Chen’s words had struck a heavy blow. His face had taken on a sad expression.

After a moment of silence, the man spoke once more, “To be truthful, 10 years ago, I too was a mercenary at the Middle Saint Master level. I traveled with a few brothers that suffered fire and rain with me, but one day while transporting some precious cargo, we encountered a bandit group that changed my life forever.”

“That group of bandits was truly strong. After a fierce battle we drove off the bandits, but our side had paid a heavy price. My Saint Weapon had been destroyed by a stronger bandit, and although I didn’t die, I had lost my ability to cultivate and the entirety of my strength. I was nothing more than a cripple, thus, I came to this village to isolate myself from the world.”

Hearing that, Jian Chen went silent as well. He could fully understand the emotions within the man's heart. To go from a mercenary that traveled the Tian Yuan Continent to becoming a cripple that couldn't cultivate, this was a cruel torment that even the most ambitious would rather die than to live and suffer.

With that, Jian Chen continued to chat with the man while eating. As they talked, Jian Chen learned of the man's name—Rosco.

Rosco was about 40 years old this year. Ever since he had his Saint Weapon shattered and became a cripple, he arrived at the village and married himself to a woman of a closeby village. They then gave birth to a son and daughter who were both 10 years old.

After that, Jian Chen had come to live temporarily within their house. However, he didn't mention that his wounds were now completely healed, so he lay in bed for the entire day. Rosco would leave him be, letting him rest for the most part. Though, in secret, Jian Chen would sit upright and continue to refine his Saint Force.

Although Jian Chen had spent many days refining his Saint Force in Phoenix City, he still hadn't completely gotten rid of the side effects from using the monster cores to cultivate.

In the blink of an eye, Jian Chen had been a resident of the village for half a month. In that half month, Rosco had grown to respect Jian Chen and would often let him rest except to bring him a meal two or three times a day.

Chapter 197: Small Mountain Village

Ten days later, Jian Chen could finally leave his bed and stand on the ground. Looking down to observe the clothing he had been wearing, he noticed that this had to be what Rosco normally wore, as it was rather big on Jian Chen.

Taking out a new set of clothing from within his Space Belt, he removed Rosco's old clothing and immediately put on the new set. Then with a dumbfounded expression, he had finally realized something had happened to his skin.

His normally pale skin was no longer white anymore. It had once more turned a red colored like when the Thousand Immunity had first advanced a step. It was a strange sight to behold.

Seeing the color of his skin, Jian Chen was still for a moment. With such a strange sight like this, even after experiencing it once for a brief moment, Jian Chen was still confused.

After that, Jian Chen shook himself awake and thought about all relevant information he had obtained.

“The anti venom from the Silver Striped Golden Snake should only turn my skin red again for a moment after it finally fuses together. Could it be that while I was resting for these 10 days, the Thousand Immunity finally reached a perfected state?” Jian Chen thought to himself with some happiness.

From the time he had absorbed the anti venom from the blood of

the Silver Striped Golden Snake until now, a year had passed. His Thousand Immunity had finally reached a perfected state. Right now was the moment he could finally say he had the Thousand Immunity.

“From this moment on, I no longer have to fear any other venomous toxin I might come across as long as it doesn’t outrank the Silver Striped Golden Snake in toxicity.” Jian Chen thought happily. Throughout the entire area of the Tian Yuan Continent, the toxin of the Silver Striped Golden Snake could be regarded as one of the most poisonous. Everyone knew how toxic it was in nature, and there weren’t many other toxins that could beat it and thus were even rarer to come across.

“According to the books, after reaching a perfected state, the Thousand Immunity will turn the skin red for a month before returning back to its original skin color. But the books didn’t say that my skin would become this red.” Jian Chen muttered to himself. It was a shame that he didn’t have a mirror, otherwise he would have been able to see how red his face had become.

After changing into a new set of clothes from his Space Belt, Jian Chen folded the clothes from Rosco and placed them on the side of the bed before walking out.

With a creaking noise, Jian Chen slid open the old fashion door to see a good amount of sunlight splash into the room, illuminating it decently.

At the moment the sun was already at its highest point in the sky, meaning it was noon. Outside the room was a small courtyard that

had plenty of cobweb like cracks running through the dirt ground. Just diagonally across from Jian Chen were some wooden houses, and even another runned down shack some distance away. Under the sun, a few young children were running around and laughing while they played.

Exiting the wooden house that had housed him for half a month, Jian Chen had finally seen what this place looked like. It was a small village by the mountains that had more houses than the eye could see, but the residents themselves could not be seen.

“Rosco, today’s harvest has been quite good. It’s still only afternoon and we’ve already caught 2 wild beasts, this will be enough to feed our entire village for a few days.”

“Right, it seems we won’t need to go hunting tomorrow. We’ll be able to eat and be merry for two days at the least to relax.”

“If our luck in the future is as good as our fortune today, then our future will surely be quite comfortable.”

The sounds of two people chattering reached Jian Chen’s ears, who turned to look at the speakers, only to see Rosco and a few other limber looking people walking from some distance away. Above the shoulders of two men was the carcass of a giant wild beast. Just looking at one of these beasts could show that they weighed a hundred kilograms at the very least.

At this moment, Rosco had realized that Jian Chen was standing in front of them. With a faraway shout, he greeted him, “Hey,

youngster! Have your wounds healed properly enough for you to walk?”

Jian Chen smiled and said, “This one thanks uncle for his concern. After applying so much good medicine these past few days, my wounds have nearly completely recovered.”

Rosco’s companions finally looked at Jian Chen for a moment before a person smiled, “Rosco, I’ve heard that some time ago you saved a man from the river. Could this be the person you saved?”

Rosco nodded his head with a smile. Quickly, the men had all arrived next to Jian Chen as Rosco pointed his finger at Jian Chen. “This little brother here is Jian Chen, although his age is quite young, you shouldn’t underestimate him at all. His life was almost taken from him, with wounds that serious, I had believed that he would die. I didn’t think that just after a few days, he would be standing right in front of us fully healed. This is something even I wouldn’t be able to do.”

“Oh, is that right? This little brother here doesn’t seem that amazing.”

Hearing that, the few men all opened their mouths to laugh, but it was all in good nature.

Rosco looked to Jian Chen, “Little brother, let me introduce you to everyone. This man right here is Fang Yungang, the man here is Cheng Liran, and the one there is called Qiu Chujie.

Jian Chen smiled as he cupped his hands in a sign of greeting toward these newly introduced men.

“You’ve returned? Oh! It would appear your harvests today were quite good to have two wild beasts hunted in such a short time!” At this, a womanly voice called out from behind as a simple clothed woman with a rather ordinary looking face walked out from one of the homes.

“Little brother, come. Let me introduce you for a moment.” Rosco patted Jian Chen’s shoulder as he pointed at the middle aged woman coming at them. “This is my wife, Fang Hui.”

“This one welcomes you, elder sister!” Jian Chen greeted her with respect. This was the first time Jian Chen had seen what Rosco’s wife had looked like, even after half a month of staying in their home, he had only been able to hear what she had sounded like.

Fang Hui looked at Jian Chen’s face and smiled, “What a handsome youth, I’ve long known about the youth Rosco rescued, but this is the first time I’ve actually seen you. I didn’t think that you’d be such a handsome youth, but why is your face so red?”

“Ah, that’s right? Little brother, for the past few days I’ve noticed that your face was getting redder and redder, are you sure you’re alright? Have your injuries given you some sort of illness?” Rosco asked with concern.

“Don’t worry, uncle. This must be the after effects of the

medicine I used, I'll be fine." Jian Chen waved off Rosco's concern.

"Ah, that's good then." Rosco calmed himself before continuing to speak, "Now's about the time to eat. Little brother, since you've healed up nicely, why don't you come eat with us?"

Chapter 198: A Promotion In Strength

Within a nicely cleaned wooden house, Jian Chen sat with Rosco's family around a wooden table to eat lunch. The food was rather simple; a few plates of vegetables and a big plate of wild beast meat.

Rosco had a family of 4, him, his wife and their two children, who were both around 10 years old.

At the dining table, Rosco and his wife continued to chat with Jian Chen, while never mentioning the topic of how Jian Chen came to be injured. Instead, they only talked about what interesting events had occurred within the Tian Yuan Continent. The continent was relatively dangerous. Rosco's wife Fang Hui had grown up in the village and never once left it. Despite once being a mercenary, when his Saint Weapon had been shattered turning him into a cripple, Rosco had lived in seclusion in this village for the rest of his life. From that moment, he had never ventured outside the village and so never heard anything new about the outside world.

Jian Chen had only traveled the Tian Yuan Continent for one or two years, and he had mainly lived in the more isolated cities and towns. However, he was able to answer the majority of the questions Rosco and his wife had while also managing to answer the occasional questions from the children.

After the meal, Rosco led Jian Chen around the village for a small tour to introduce him to the village people and get familiarized with the history of the village.

This village was once called the Huang Village with a history of over a hundred years. A hundred years ago, a family with the surname of Huang established this village with only a few settlers. Even though it had around hundred years to develop itself, it had never gone beyond 30 families. The total population remained around 100 people, and aside from the elderly, children, and the wives, there were only around 30 to 40 strong, robust men.

This village had worked to survive by farming the lands, while occasionally a strong young man would hunt in the forests to kill a few wild beasts or fish for food in the river. Other than that, the village would isolate itself from the outside affairs of the world.

In a single afternoon, Rosco had led Jian Chen around the entire village and introduced him to almost everyone in the village before calling it a day.

At night, Rosco brought Jian Chen back to the house and the five people sat down at the table once more to eat dinner. Like lunch, the dinner was relatively simple with a big bowl of rice and some vegetables.

At one point during the dinner, the little boy sitting next to Jian Chen lifted his head and spoke shyly, “Brother Jian Chen, I heard father say that you are really amazing.” Listening to her brother speak, the little girl right next to Fang Hui lifted her head as well with her black eyes brimming with curiosity.

This little boy was called [Roger](#), and the girl’s name was [Rogue](#)–

these two were the children of Rosco and Fang Hui.

Both children have the same sounding name in chinese.

Hearing this, Jian Chen's eyes fell upon the child and laughed, "Little Roger, the outside world is vast and there are many more amazing people than your brother Jian Chen. When you grow older and stronger, Roger, you should head out to the outside world and see it for yourself."

"Then brother Jian Chen, against daddy, who is stronger?" Hearing Jian Chen's answer, Rosco's daughter Rogue couldn't help but ask with curiosity.

Rosco began to laugh before turning to look at his daughter, "Rogue, don't look down on brother Jian Chen. Although he is much younger than your father, he is much more amazing than me."

Rosco's wife, Fang Hui suddenly gained a shine in her eyes as she said, "Ah, Jian Chen, if you don't mind our impoverished lives here, why don't you live here with us? The Tian Yuan Continent is dangerous, but the village here is very peaceful and safe. One of these days, I can even help introduce you to a pretty lady in the following village!"

Jian Chen gave a small smile as he thought about Fang Hui's words with a secretive thought of disapproval, "This one thanks elder sister's idea, but I still have things to do in the outside world. So for that reason, this one won't stay here longer than necessary," He replied with a bitter smile.

“That’s fine, every young man has things they need to do. For a youngster like Jian Chen, they should travel the continent a little longer and enjoy the world, don’t walk blindly in an area like this.” Rosco spoke to Jian Chen. He had traveled the world as a mercenary himself, so he knew how Jian Chen felt about this idea.

Fang Hui glared at Rosco with a disappointed look. In her mind, if she could find a nice lady to have Jian Chen married to, he would stay behind in this village and thus help the other men of the village go hunting. This way, a healthy harvest would be guaranteed.

After dinner, Jian Chen returned to his little room to rest for the day. This room was originally intended to store away junk, but with Jian Chen occupying the room temporarily, Rosco had cleaned out the room. For the sake of letting Jian Chen rest, Rosco had placed a bed in it.

Closing the door to his room, Jian Chen sat cross-legged on his bed and took out a few Class 3 Monster Cores from within his Space Belt to cultivate.

Before the half month of rest, Jian Chen had done his best to remove any of the hidden dangers in his body. After that, he was now once again free to try to improve his strength without needing to worry about increasing his strength far too fast or that the berserk elements from the monster cores adding to the hidden dangers.

Jian Chen continued to absorb the energy from within the monster cores at a terrifying speed. The moment it entered his body, the berserk elements within the energy stream were immediately absorbed into the cyan and purple glows within his dantian along with a good amount of the energy.

Perhaps it was because Jian Chen was taking the energy within the monster core at an even faster and more efficient rate than before, but the dantian was also absorbing the energy at a larger rate than before as well. At the current moment, Jian Chen could take in about ten to twenty percent of the total energy within the monster core, compared to the past one percent when he was a regular Saint.

Right now, Jian Chen urgently wanted to improve his strength so that it would reach that of the Great Saint Master level. For the next couple of days, Jian Chen didn't leave his room and continued to cultivate. Though he would leave to eat meals every two or three days with the family, since he was a Saint Master now he didn't need to eat every day like the average person.

Chapter 199: Another Breakthrough

In the blink of an eye, Jian Chen had spent at least an entire month in Huang Village. In that month, Jian Chen had rarely walked out from his room, choosing to spend the entire day within his room to cultivate in peace. Every two or three days, sometimes every four days, he would eat some meals with the family. But other than that, he remained indoors and after finishing his meal, he continued his cultivation. Heading out into the village itself was even more rare.

After spending half of the month in cultivation, Jian Chen's Saint Force had been readily increasing in strength at the expense of going through multiple monster cores quickly. However, he still had an ample sum of Class 3 and 4 Monster Cores along with the monster cores from the Space Belts of the Great Saint Masters he killed back in Phoenix City. With so many monster cores, he wasn't afraid of running out of them. There were still two Class 5 Monster Cores within his Space Ring as well which were better than over a hundred Class 4 Monster Cores. This large amount of monster cores would definitely help bring him to the Great Saint Master realm.

Right now, Jian Chen was at the very peak of the Peak Saint Master level. The only thing preventing him from making it to the Great Saint Master level was a frail boundary.

At this final juncture, Jian Chen didn't dare to stop cultivating. Opening his eyelids, there was a calm look in his eyes with only a small tint of emotions. It would only take another month before he could break through. It was a shame that the hidden dangers in his body before had delayed his breakthrough. As soon as he broke

through to the Great Saint Master level, taking revenge on the Tianxiong Clan in Wake City would be possible.

Taking in a deep breath, Jian Chen calmed his body and took out another dozen Class 4 Monster Cores from within his Space Belt and placed them between his legs for his cultivation needs.

Because he was at a critical point before the breakthrough, the amount of energy he needed was absolutely massive. At the same time, he wouldn't have time to constantly take out monster core by monster core from his Space Belt, so he would need to have a large amount of them on hand.

With all preparations done, Jian Chen held a Class 4 Monster Core in each of his hands as he closed his eyes and entered a state of meditation.

Closing his eyes, another day again passed for Jian Chen. The next afternoon, Rosco sat with his wife and children at the table eating lunch.

“This Jian Chen is far too hard working at his cultivation. It has been half a month already, and he only comes out every three days or so to eat a meal. I don't know how he has managed to endure this, but it's been four days this time and he hasn't stepped out of his room even once. Ai, I'm worried he worked himself into an illness.” Fang Hui looked at the closed door to Jian Chen's room with a look of worry on her face.

Rosco laughed at her words, “Fang Er, you've never come into

contact with Saint Force, but it is an incredible yet mysterious force. Jian Chen is at the very least a hundred times more hard working than me, but he still won't work himself into an illness. As for not eating, that doesn't need to be said either. On the Tian Yuan Continent, the stronger experts could go ten days without eating a meal with no problem. I myself would occasionally go without a meal with my comrades for five days and still be able to fend off the bandits with a ferocity of a dragon and the vitality of a tiger."

Fang Hui stuck her nose up in disdain, "You are you, and Jian Chen is Jian Chen. Don't forget that time was when you were 30 years old. Jian Chen is only a 20 year old youth with a physically weaker body. In what way can his body compare to your stature at that time?"

Rosco let out a sigh and replied, "Fang Er, you've never walked the continent, so you won't know how this works. Let me explain this to you, a person's strength is not determined by how old a person is. A few men with talent but no hard work could condense their Saint Force into a Saint Weapon after a lifetime, and a few men with the talent and even the resources may never be able to reach a high level."

"Take our Huang Village for example. After over 100 years, the strongest person in the village has only been a Great Saint at the most. Many of the academies within the Tian Yuan Continent have standards in which a Great Saint is the minimal level for graduation at the very least. There's even many men that aren't even at the age of 30 that have the same level of strength as our village head."

Fang Hui nodded her head as if she understood, “Although what you say seems right, Jian Chen’s strength can’t be said for certain, he is still far too young.”

Just as Rosco was about to open his mouth to explain once more to Fang Hui, a strong gale suddenly flew out from Jian Chen’s room, causing dirt to fly everywhere—including the food on the table.

“Crap, how could there suddenly be a large gust of wind?” Rosco cried out before bounding to the door to close it.

“Wuuuuu.... wuu...dad, mom, my eyes has dirt in it, I can’t see!” Rogue buried her face in her hands and began to cry out with tears.

Fang Hui hurried on over to where Rogue was and began to comfort her, “Hush, don’t cry, your mother is here. Let mother help you clean out your eyes, open them slowly for me.”

Rosco looked back to the table where all of the dishes were now filled with dirt with some confusion before speaking seriously to his family. “You should all stay here, I’ll go and check. This gale was far too sudden, this must be an omen for danger.” Rapidly opening and closing the door, Rosco headed out.

Outside, the sudden gale had caused trouble everywhere. Dust flew around the sky and covered it so that the fierce sun above it could barely shine down below with the exception of a few weak rays of light. Some of the clothes that were hung outside to dry had been sent flying into the air and fluttered away. Even the tiles on

the roofs had been lifted by a small degree while some of the older huts had been completely demolished by the gale.

“What happened, why was there a great gale all of a sudden...”

“What a strange wind this was, to come so suddenly and yet so fiercely...”

From a distance, the Huang Village men were all coming out of their houses with confusion.

Rosco looked around before his eyes landed upon the little room Jian Chen was cultivating in. His eyes narrowed as he realized that the dust had all blown out from the direction of his room.

After traveling the continent for many years, Rosco had learned to deduce things quickly thanks to his experience as a Saint Master. His eyes grew wider as he began to think about what could have caused the gale of wind. “Could...could this be the result of Jian Chen’s cultivation?” The thought of that had caused Rosco’s heart to waver, he knew what could have possibly happened to bring about such a result. 10 years ago when he was a Saint Master, he had experienced this before on a smaller scale. He couldn’t believe that Jian Chen would have long since surpassed him in such a way.

“What a mistake in judgement, to think that such a youngster would be far past the Saint Master realm. He has to be at the Great Saint Master realm by now.” Rosco thought. Even though he was a cripple, his experience was far more than enough to understand

what Jian Chen had just done.

“Look everyone, the wind’s coming from that direction.” An elderly voice called out as everyone looked at the direction of the finger the elder was pointing at.

Hearing this, everyone studied the direction that had been pointed out before realizing it was the house of Jian Chen. “The village elder is right, the wind is coming from that direction! Just look, the smoke is spreading out from over there.”

“Let’s go quickly then!”

“Right, let’s find out what’s happening...”

In the end, a group of people had headed toward the area of Jian Chen’s room. Instantly realizing what was happening, Rosco hurried forward to block them, “Village elder, it’s best if we go elsewhere for now to avoid disturbing Jian Chen.”

“Rosco, just what exactly is going on here? I can see that this gale is coming from here.” The village elder asked Rosco with some confusion. His elderly face was filled with a serious expression.

“That’s right. Rosco, just what is happening within that room? Are you hiding some sort of treasure?” The village elder asked once more.

“Right right, Rosco, you best be honest here. If you have a

treasure, you should show it to the rest of us.”

“Hurry up and let everyone see this treasure. I’ve never seen anything that could cause such a wind!”

As each person joined in, everyone else wanted to look at what treasure was hidden within the room. Their voices each crying out over one another.

“”Shh...everyone be quiet.” Rosco couldn’t help but to try to quiet them down. “Please, don’t misunderstand me, everyone. I don’t have any sort of treasure hidden away. This is the result of that youth Jian Chen’s cultivation. This was something I came to understand after my experience of being a traveler of the Tian Yuan Continent. This has to be the result of Jian Chen’s cultivation almost reaching a breakthrough. This current moment has to be the most critical point, so if he is disturbed, then a disastrous result might happen for Jian Chen. Come now, let’s all walk away from this area so we won’t disturb Jian Chen’s cultivation.”

“Oh, so it was like that?”

“No way, I’ve seen that Jian Chen before, but I didn’t think him to be that amazing to be able to call down the winds like that.”

“Rosco, are you trying to trick us?”

The crowd murmured in confusion. They were people of the

village and had never once traveled out to the Tian Yuan Continent so many of the people there were very suspicious of Rosco's attitude. They couldn't believe that a youth like Jian Chen would be capable of having such strength. To them, this was a mystery that deserved some research.

The village elder looked at the room Jian Chen resided in with a look of shock before taking in a deep breath. "Everyone, what Rosco said does have some merit. But whether or not his words are true, we'll find out soon enough. Let us wait for now and avoid disturbing Jian Chen."

The village elder's words had a very strong weight in everyone's eyes. His words were something many people didn't dare to go against. Silently, everyone began to walk back, no longer walking toward Jian Chen's location.

The gale of wind continued to wreak havoc within a smaller range of a few hundred meters which was still enough to cover the entire village.

Everyone backed away another 50 meters and watched for a little longer. After a while, the elderly, children, and women all left and the middle aged men stayed to observe the mysterious dust storm.

Right now, there were about 100 people within Huang Village. All of the able bodied were left observing the area with a strange expression. The sight in front of them wasn't something that would attract attention in the Tian Yuan Continent usually, but for this village which was cut off from the rest of the world, this was especially strange.

“Why do I feel like my heart is feeling more and more painful? It’s to the point where even breathing has become extremely difficult.” An old man suddenly said in confusion as he reached out to massage his chest.

“Yea, I also feel like my chest is stuffy, to the point where I’m becoming agitated. Moreover, I feel like I’m carrying something really heavy on my back.” A middle-aged man chimed in.

“Me too. My chest feels so smothered, as if a large rock is exerting pressure on my chest. I can barely breathe.”

“How strange, you guys are feeling this sensation too? I had thought it was only me who was feeling such a symptom.”

“I also have this feeling...”

“Me too...”

Hearing everyone talk, Rosco’s heart skipped a beat. Immediately realizing the situation, he cried out, “Everyone, get away. This is an invisible air that only an extremely strong person can emit. It can majorly affect all surrounding people. Some peak experts are even able to use this air to constrict people’s airways and suffocate them to death.”

Everyone’s expressions changed drastically, including the old village chief’s. All of them hurriedly retreated until they were 100

meters away. Although most of them didn't even know what this air was, they had clearly understood one thing: some peak experts could use this air to directly suffocate a person to death.

“Peng!”

Just after everyone had retreated 100 meters, a loud sound suddenly rang out. The small wooden house that Jian Chen had been living in instantly shattered into scattered pieces. Then, a human figure broke through the roof, shooting up into the air like a bullet, and reaching a height of over 50 meters in the blink of an eye.

“Ah!”

Jian Chen floated about 50 meters in the air, and emitted a long whistle toward the sky. The sound resonated without restraint through the air, crossing over a vast distance. At the same time, powerful Saint Force surged and gathered in his left hand. With a wave, a pure ball of light energy completely formed from Saint Force whizzed out of his hand and off toward the distant ground.

“Bang!”

When the ball of light energy crashed into the ground, a large bang resonated through the air, and a great amount of smoke and dust began to rise. Only after it had dissipated were people shocked to discover that a 2-3 meter diameter hole around 5 meters deep had formed.

The surge of Saint Force once again appeared, in Jian Chen's right hand this time. It quickly condensed into a silver sword that shot out piercing glows as it caught the sunlight, forcing people to look away. This sword seemed to be even more dazzling than the sun.

In an instant the silver light flashed and died out, the sword had already pierced through the air as fast as lightning. A sharp amount Sword Qi along with dazzling light broke away from the sword's bonds, and quickly shot at the empty ground 100 meters off into the distance at lightning-fast speeds. It silently went through the solid rock, leaving only an extremely thin crack on the surface. There were absolutely no signs of cracks in any the surrounding areas.

After this attack pierced through, Jian Chen's body began to slowly descend to the ground. Although he could jump up 50 meters in a single bound, he was only able to stay floating in midair for a breath's time.

Jian Chen landed on the ground with a trace of a faint smile on his face. It was a smile of self-confidence; after cultivating non-stop for over half a month, his strength had smoothly broken through from the Peak Saint Master level to the Great Saint Master level.

Chapter 200: Misfortune

A hundred meters away, every single person within the village looked at Jian Chen with a look of utter shock.

A loud cry rang out and spread a few kilometers in every direction as Jian Chen leaped fifty meters into the air before slamming his fist into the ground, causing a huge shockwave. Dirt flew out into the air as the group of villagers all watched this show with a sluggish expression as they tried to comprehend what was happening.

It could be said without exaggeration that this display of strength was far beyond the knowledge of anyone here. They were after all people of a village that had never traveled the continent or come across any knowledge of how strong a Saint had to be in order to cause such an effect. Even their village elder who was a Great Saint only knew of information from the outside world by word of mouth. To see Jian Chen leap fifty meters into the sky before bringing his fist down to create a hundred meter crater, was definitely a first for him.

At this moment, each villager's face was filled with looks of extreme shock yet also full of worship. There was a large amount of respect within their eyes mixed with their initial disbelief.

Even though they had seen this terrifying event with their own eyes, they still couldn't believe what they were seeing. A single youth not even over the age of 20 had caused such a scene of destruction.

Feeling the surge of Saint Force reverberating through him, Jian Chen's heart swelled with a large amount of confidence. With his current strength, although it still wasn't enough to defend himself completely against an Earth Saint Master, but against a group of Great Saint Masters he wouldn't be forced to constantly run away and wouldn't have to use his Spirit Sword as his last resort.

Jian Chen looked at the Light Wind Sword in his right hand. After his ascension from the Saint Master level, he could clearly tell that his Light Wind Sword had also undergone some changes. His current sword looked to be even shinier than before, the blade was almost similar to the speckless reflection of a mirror that distributed a white glow of brilliant light. The sword glow that appeared over his sword didn't seem like anything too remarkable at first, but the glow alone could split stone and smash metal with a power unimaginable to anyone.

Aside from that, the Light Wind Sword's hardness had been vastly improved as well. Jian Chen was confident that his strength was utterly different from when he was a Saint Master. Whoever wanted to break the two finger wide sword of his, would find it an extremely daunting task.

Slowly resorbing the sword back into his body, Jian Chen looked around himself only to see the broken room he had left behind. With a bitter look on his face, he slowly walked over to Rosco who was a hundred meters away and spoke with some regret, "Uncle, this one is truly sorry, I've destroyed the room you lent me."

Despite Rosco being utterly shocked at Jian Chen's strength in his heart, he was an experienced mercenary so he quickly stilled

his emotions. Slapping Jian Chen on the shoulder, he laughed, “Don’t worry about it. It’s nothing more than just a room, all we need is some time and it can be rebuilt. Kid, I’ve really made a serious mistake here, I didn’t think that you would be so strong since you looked to be so young. I truly am extremely shocked.” Rosco spoke with some excitement in his voice.

“Haha, little brother Jian Chen is too polite. It is merely a small room. In six hours or so a new one can be built. But the power brother Jian Chen has just revealed has truly opened our eyes. Everyone, don’t you think so as well?” The village elder laughed with a kind expression.

“Yes, that’s right...”

Following the village elder’s words, every villager behind him began to speak out with adoration and respect.

“Ai!” At that moment, the village elder let out a strange sound before looking closely at Jian Chen’s face before asking curiously, “Little brother Jian Chen, why is it that your face is white? I remember a few days ago, your face was red.”

Rushing to come up with an answer, Rosco quickly said, “Haha, village elder, brother Jian Chen’s face had always been pale. A few days ago he had some medicine applied to his body that turned his face red.”

The village elder nodded his head in understanding before laughing. “That’s good, that’s good. White is a better color on a

face than red. I didn't think that little brother Jian Chen here would be so strong. Not only that, but to be so handsome as well; with an appearance like this, you could cause all of the woman nearby to go crazy over you."

Everyone burst out into laughter as they all thought about the elder's words in approval, there was no doubt to them.

Jian Chen himself had a small smile. The elder's words had caused him to be speechless.

All of a sudden at that moment, an unexpected change went through Jian Chen's face as his body began to shake violently as a tremendous amount of energy burst out from his body uncontrollably. Staggering back a few steps, he then leaped a few meters away.

At the same time, Jian Chen's handsome and pale face began to turn violet and then a shade of azure. Even his eyes had begun to display the two colors behind the thin layer of his cornea.

Rosco had been pushed back around twenty meters away from the energy Jian Chen had unleashed before slowly stabilizing himself. Slowly turning his head to look at Jian Chen, he immediately realized the state he was in. With concern, he asked quickly, "Kid, what's wrong?"

Jian Chen's entire body continued to shake and tremble as his eyes continued to flash in between the two colors of violet and azure.

“Ge-get...get ba-back! Ever-everyone...get f-far aw-away from me...Don’t get close...!” Jian Chen spat out with some difficulty before sitting down and closing his eyes.

“What’s wrong? What’s wrong with brother Jian Chen? Did something go wrong with his cultivation?”

“What happened to brother Jian Chen?”

The group of villagers scrambled to get away as they noisily clamored, they also looked with confusion at the seated Jian Chen.

Rosco’s face was full of confusion as well. He had been a Saint Master in his prime before his Saint Weapon broke and turned him into a cripple. So after seeing what state Jian Chen had been in, he came to realize what problem had come across Jian Chen’s cultivation.

“Get back, we all need to get back for now. Until the kid wakes up, we should all stay quiet for now to avoid disturbing him.” Rosco whispered to the rest before guiding them backward.